砂ぼうず

うすね正慶

第十八巻

BEAM COMIX

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BEAM COMIX

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18

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STORY&CHARACTERS ——— 003

VOL.109 ——— 007
VOL.110 ——— 041
VOL.111 ——— 075
VOL.112 ——— 101
VOL.113 ——— 135

SUNABO-ZU CONTENTS

— STORY —

In the wake of Sunabozu's haunting shadow, the operation to break out of the security police's encirclement begins! While Mitsuru finds Kosuna's superb instincts reliable, Akio, who is keeping an eye on them, is nothing but suspicious. Well then, will they be able to break out unscathed?

—CHARACTERS—

West Oasis Government

Mitsuru

Son of Koidemizu, Sunabozu's master. He leaves Sunabozu and partners with Kosuna. A sufferer of the Hulk disease.

Master and pupil

Kosuna (Koizumi Taiko)

Aspiring to be the strongest beauty in the Great Desert of Kanto, she becomes a pupil of Sunabozu. Her skills rapidly improves, but declares her independence from Sunabozu upon his betrayal. Currently living out her uncompromising everyday life...

In Opposition

Currently on opposing sides

Former master and pupil

The Majority Faction (Otaki faction)

Currently holds the majority within the West Oasis government. Believes they should leave the Earth's rebirth to its own ability to regenerate. As is the case with the Opposing Faction, the story has yet to reveal who is in control behind the scenes.

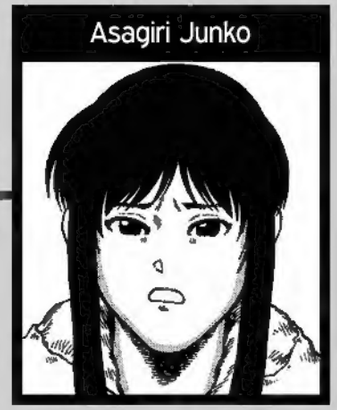
Sunabozu (Mizuno Kanta)

The talented handyman of the desert. Has no qualms resorting to underhand tricks. He betrays his former allies at the Opposing Faction, and joins the Majority Faction and now leads the cyborg soldiers.

Wants to fuck

Utterly exploiting

Asagiri Junko



"The Vixen of the Desert." She uses her cunning to swindle one man after another. Defects with Sunabozu to the Majority Faction.

In control of

Cyborg Soldiers

They are advanced technology from the Dark Ages, and they hold tremendous combat power. They are currently being controlled by Sunabozu.

In combat

Mizusaki

A Hunter who serves as a guide in West Oasis. He hits his head and goes a bit loopy.

Rivals

At War

South Oasis Government

They have been in combat with the West Oasis Government for over three years. The Southern Alliance refers to the South Oasis government-affiliated resistance within West Oasis territory.

Amagumo (The Rain Spider)

Sunabozu's rival handyman. A pervert to boot. Mainly takes requests from the South Oasis.

Escorting

Amami

The VIP of the current mission. Currently injured.

The Opposing Faction (Anti-Government Faction)

A group that proposes using remnant technology from the Dark Ages to efficiently aid the regeneration of the now-desolated Earth. The leader behind the scenes has yet to be revealed in the story.

Respects

Kawaguchi Fuyuo, Akio, and Haruo

AKA "The Machine Gun Brothers." They have known Sunabozu since their childhood days, but they don't get along with him. Their trigger-happy style of shooting is nothing but crude. Were persuaded by Natsuko to join the Opposing Faction.

Siblings

Kawaguchi Natsuko

The sole sister of the Kawaguchi siblings. Works hard and becomes an officer of the Oasis army, but later joins Kaido and co. due to their shared ideology. Currently a core member of the group.

Approaching

Tanigawa Seiji

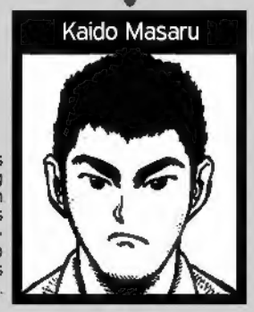
Former technician at the Uzumaki Industry. After being deceived by Natsuko, he takes the new suit from the company and runs for his life. Later joins the Opposing Faction.

Superior of

Ikeda

An academic studying the Dark Ages. He is active within the Opposing Faction, but is too kind-at-heart to be good at those jobs.

Kaido Masaru



An idealist who sets out on a wandering after pulling out from the military. After his meeting with Sunabozu, he returns to the army and joins the Opposing Faction.

Kaizuka Kaoru

The President of the Game of Life Company. A patron of the Opposing Faction, he is however abducted by the Majority Faction. Current whereabouts unknown...

Thanks to a desperate Mitsuru nursing her, Kosuna has finally recovered! She finds herself seeing mysterious and bizarre things! What on earth happened to her? No one has the slightest clue, but hang in there, Kosuna!

VOL. 109

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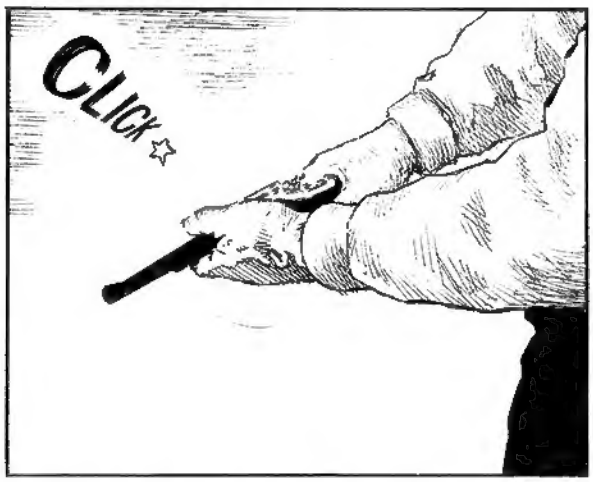
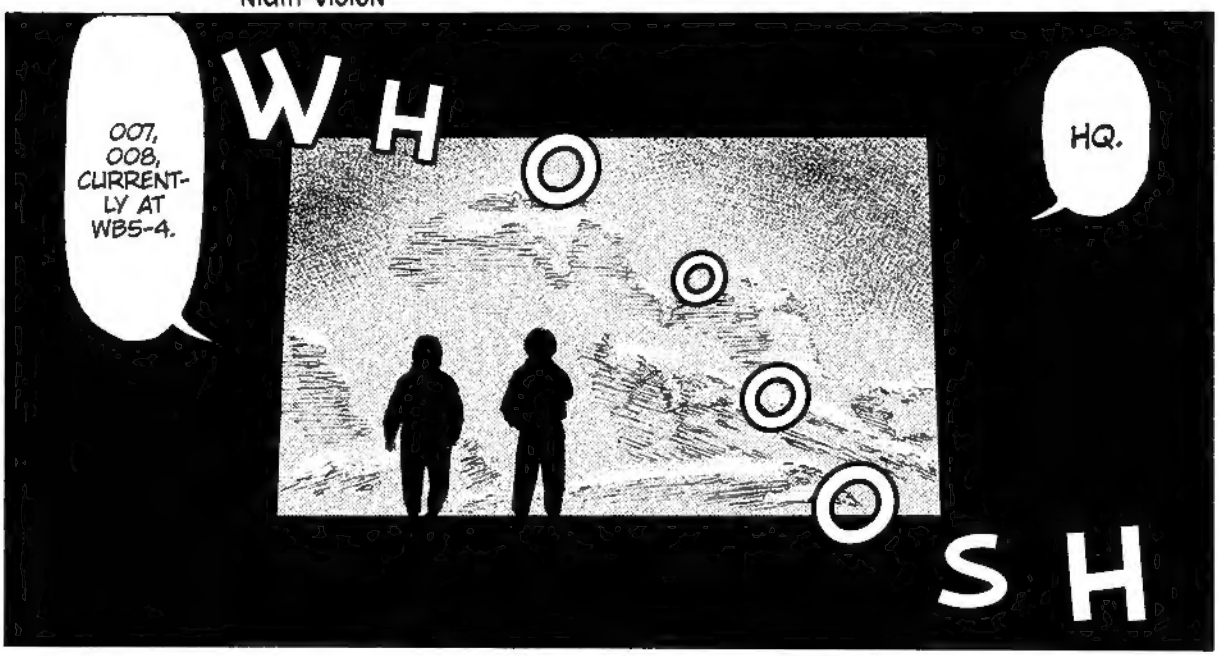
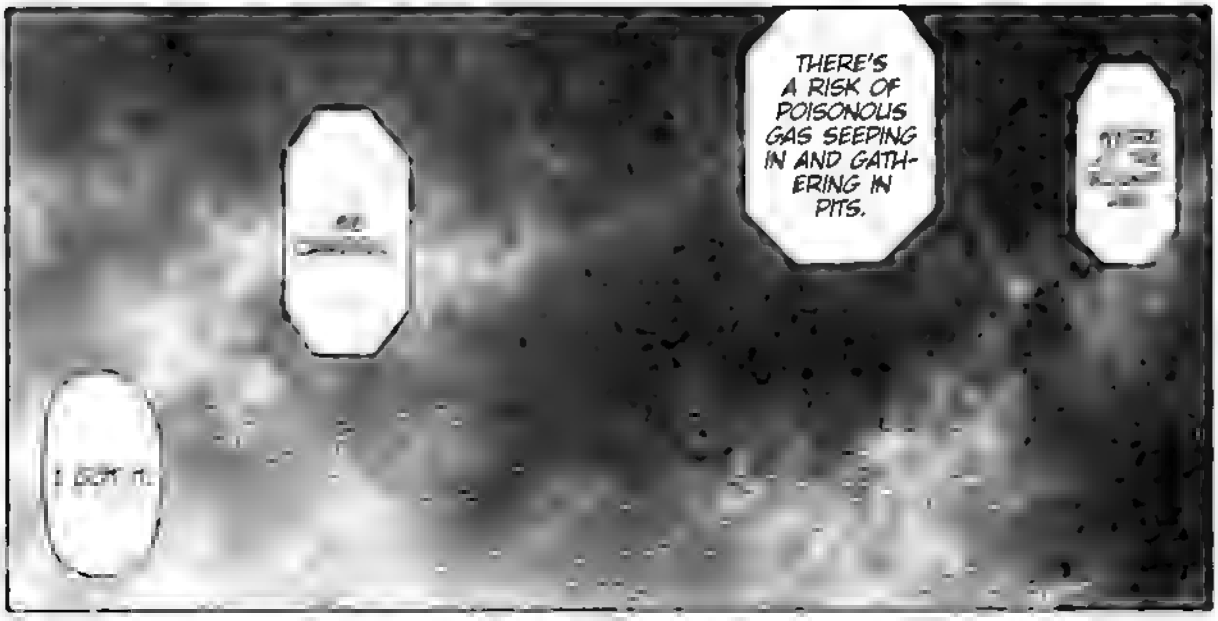
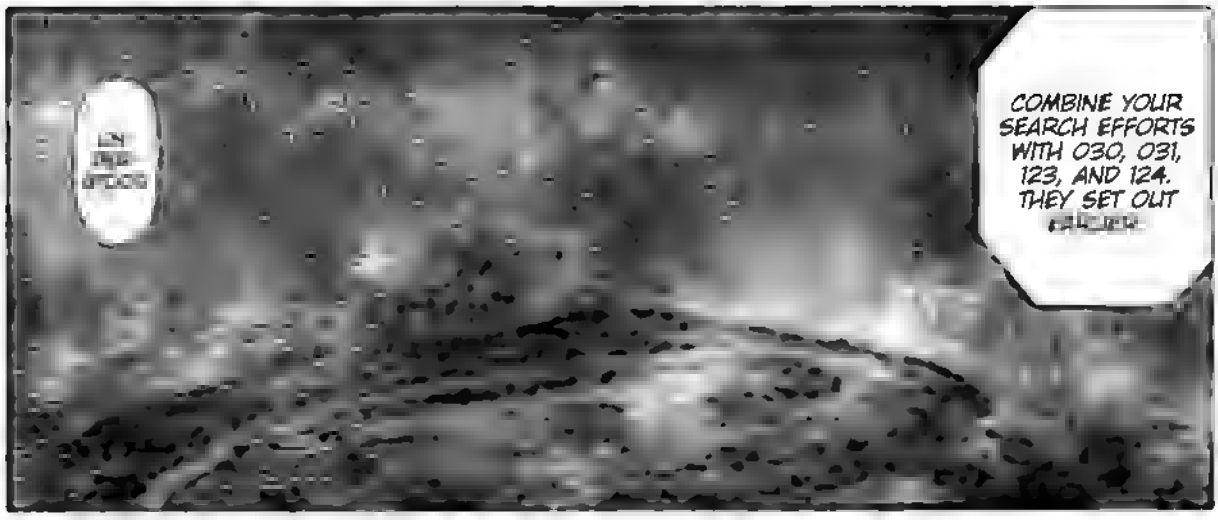


*NIGHT-VISION



WHOOOOSH
CURRENT TIME IS 21:17.
025 AND 026, NOW PROCEEDING TO INFILTRATE WB5 FOR OUR SEARCH.
HQ, AFFIR-MATIVE.
KSHH


THERE'S A RISK OF POISONOUS GAS SEEPING IN AND GATHERING IN PITS.


COMBINE YOUR SEARCH EFFORTS WITH 030, 031, 123, AND 124. THEY SET OUT

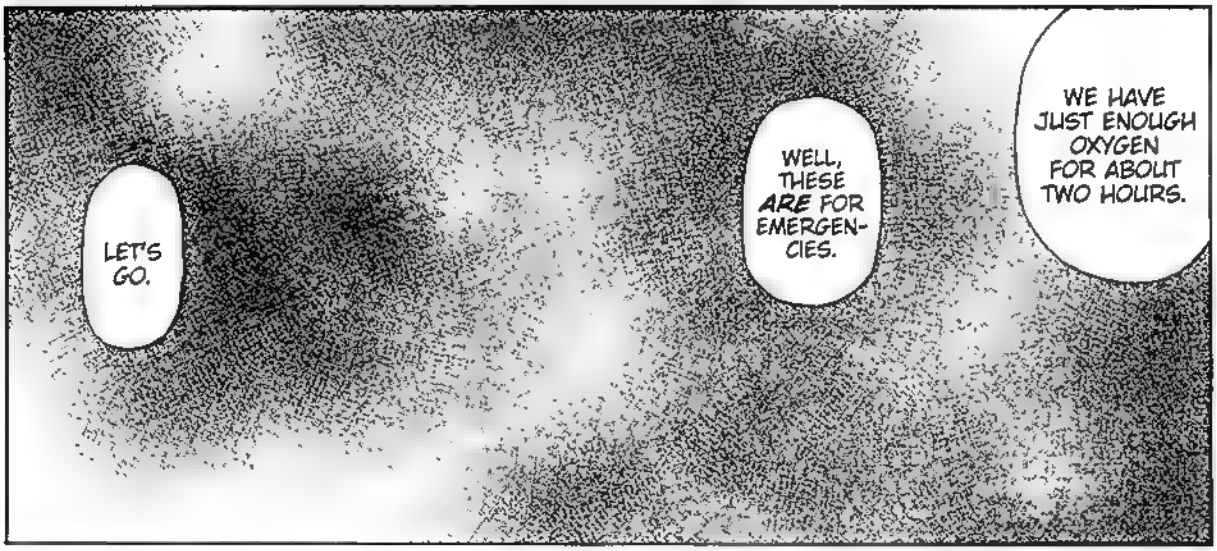
...
HEY HEY.

AN INCIDENT IF IT'S NOT AN ACCIDENT.
GAS GET THEM?

THIS IS A DANGER ZONE THAT HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF
THERE ARE ALSO UNEXPLORED RUINS HERE
EITHER IS POSSIBLE, SEEING THIS PLACE.

MMPH
YOU GONNA SHUT FOR YOUR EM?
PUT ON YOUR MASK

WEREN'T WE GONNA DO THIS ONCE WE HAVE THE NUMBERS AND ARE FULLY EQUIPPED?
HAVE THEY CAUGHT ON TO SOME CLUES PERHAPS?


LET'S GO.
WELL, THESE ARE FOR EMERGENCIES.
WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH OXYGEN FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

...ZZ
THIS IS 007.
030, 123, WHERE ARE YOUR CURRENT POSITIONS?
SNEAK SNEAK

I'M JUST GLAD WE PACKED OUR STUFF TOGETHER QUICKLY.
GLANCE GLANCE

IF THEY COULD ARRIVE HERE THIS SOON,
THEY REALLY MUST HAVE BEEN NEARBY.
SHIEEEEET. THEY'RE GATHERING LIKE FLIES.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

WITH THE WAY WE HID THEM, THEY'RE GONNA GET FOUND RIGHT AWAY.
WE COULDN'T FINISH OFF THOSE TWO PROPERLY.

123 AND 124. WE WILL HEAD RIGHT TO YOU.
007, AFFIRMATIVE.
THIS IS 030, UNDERSTOOD.
REQUESTING THE STATUS OF 025 AND 026.
OH NO!
Security police wireless
30 MINUTES AGO...

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT AGAIN.
AND I BEAT THEM UP REALLY BAD...
ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T PRETEND TO BE A MOLE...
A-ALL...
SHAKE
SHAKE

THEY'LL COME FOR US...
TREMBLE

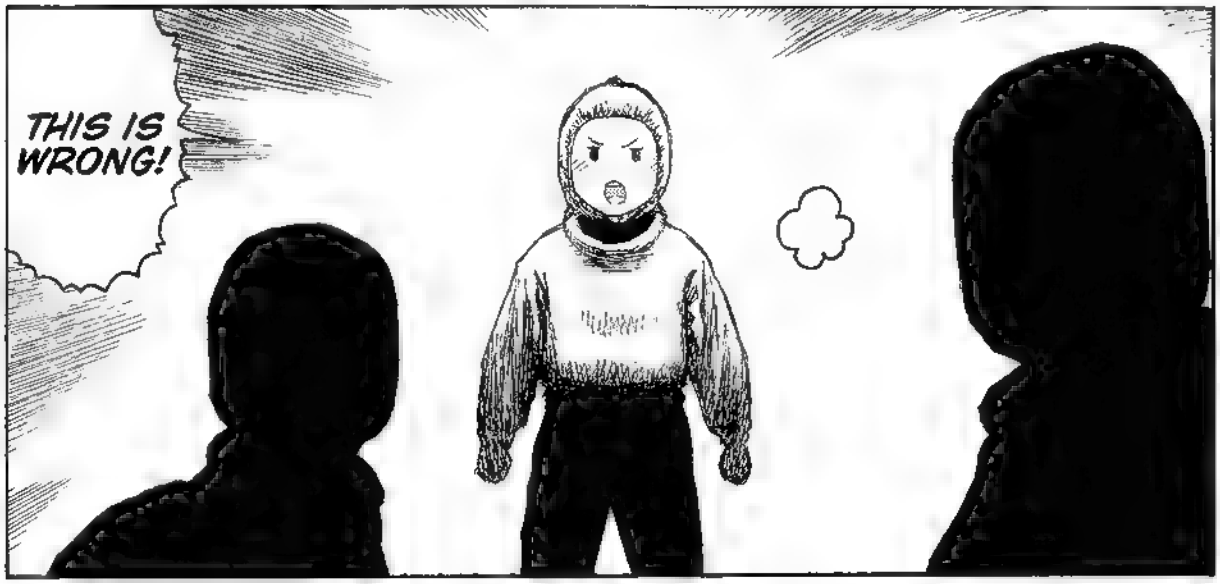
GUESS THE B TEAM REALLY AIN'T ALL THAT, FUCK.
Of course they're gonna torture you to death out of vengeance.
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
After all their losses?
No way pretending to be a Mole would get you out of this.
THAT BASTARD IKEMITSU IS FULL OF SHIT.
CRUNCH
CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

I'M SURPRISED YOU GUYS MADE IT THIS FAR.
MAKING A SECRET BASE WITH ALL THESE SECURITY POLICE CRAWLING AROUND NEARBY...
SNEAK
SNEAK

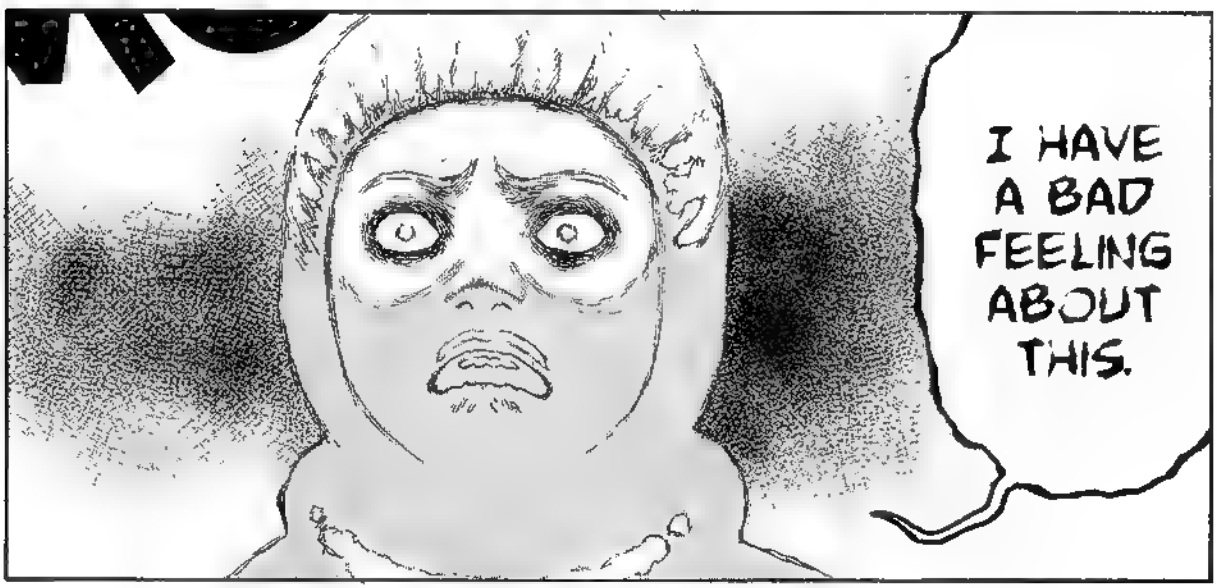
TSK.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERY-THING TO GO YOUR WAY.
STOP

MISS TAIKO WAS IN A VERY BAD STATE. WE NEEDED AN EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SO, WE WENT TO THIS VILLAGE.
THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.

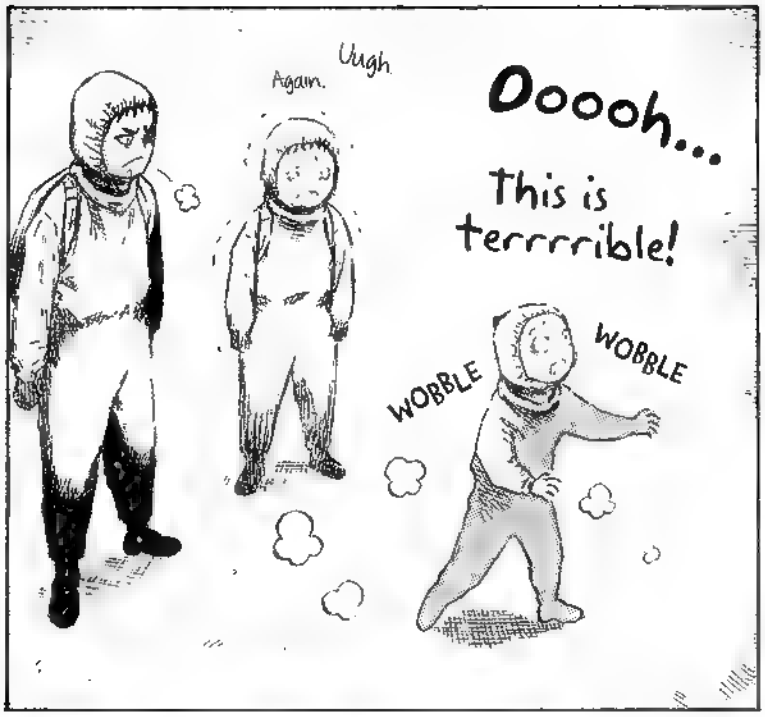
WRONG!


THIS IS WRONG!

THIS STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14 HERE,
IS OMI-NOUS...
...AND GLOO-MY...
...AND IS SUR-ROUNDED BY A REEEEALLY BAD PRES-ENCE.
MO
MO
MO
MO
MO


I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I WANT TO REJOIN IKEMITSU'S GROUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
USING WIRELESS WOULD BE BAD RIGHT NOW.

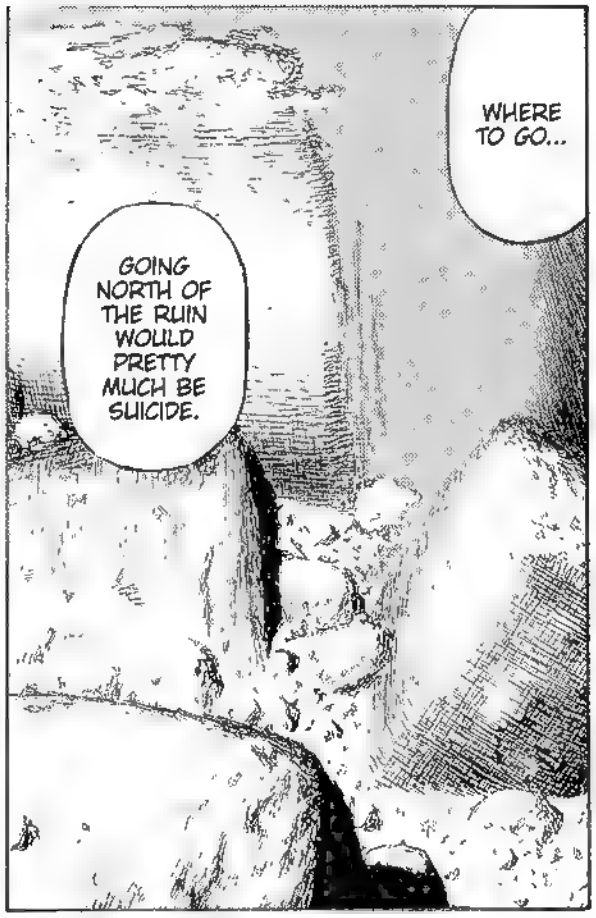

Ooooh...
This is terrrrible!
Uugh
Again.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

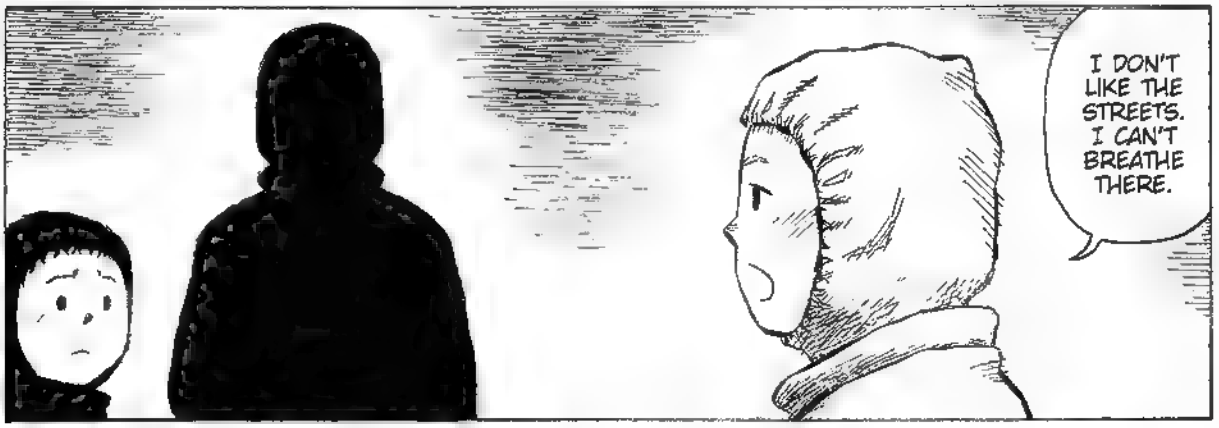
THEN WE WILL TRY TO MAKE THE CALL.
WE SHOULD FIRST FIND A HIDING PLACE SOME-WHERE.
AGREED... THEY'RE SURE TO CHECK AFTER ALL THAT COMMOTION.
OR THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO..

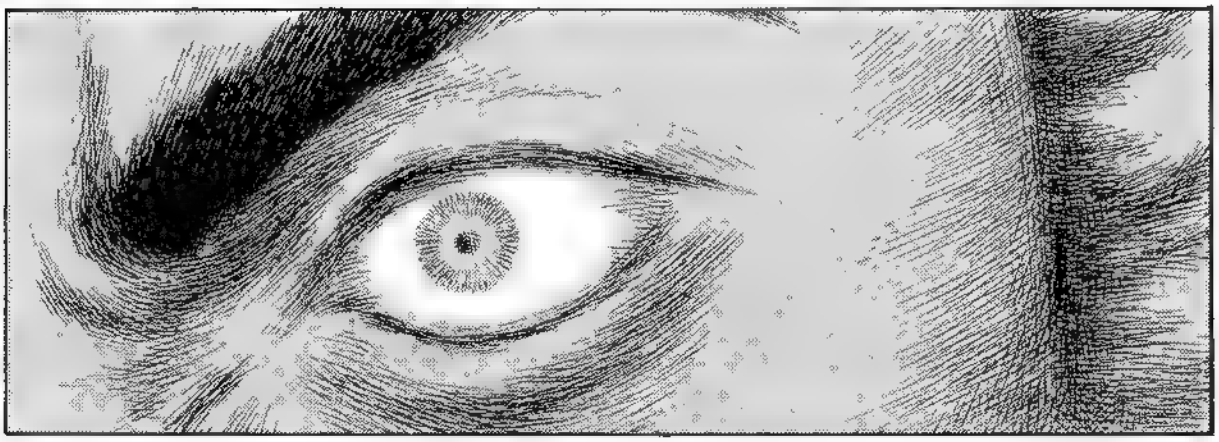
DAMMIT, THAT BASTARD IKEMITSU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST GIVEN US SOMEONE WHO WAS IN THE KNOW.

OF COURSE, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE EITHER.
NO, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME.
YOU GUYS AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THIS SECTOR, ARE YOU?
SWEAT
SWEAT

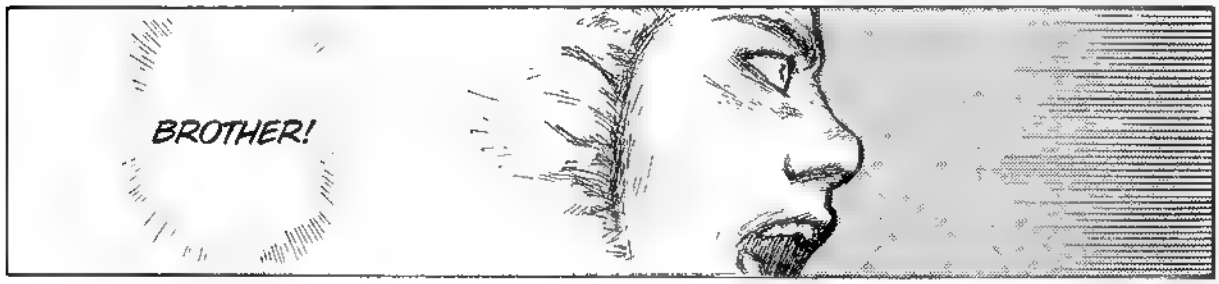
SHOULD WE JUST HEAD BACK TO TOWN...
...AND HIDE AMONG THE POPULACE?


WHERE TO GO...
GOING NORTH OF THE RUIN WOULD PRETTY MUCH BE SUICIDE.

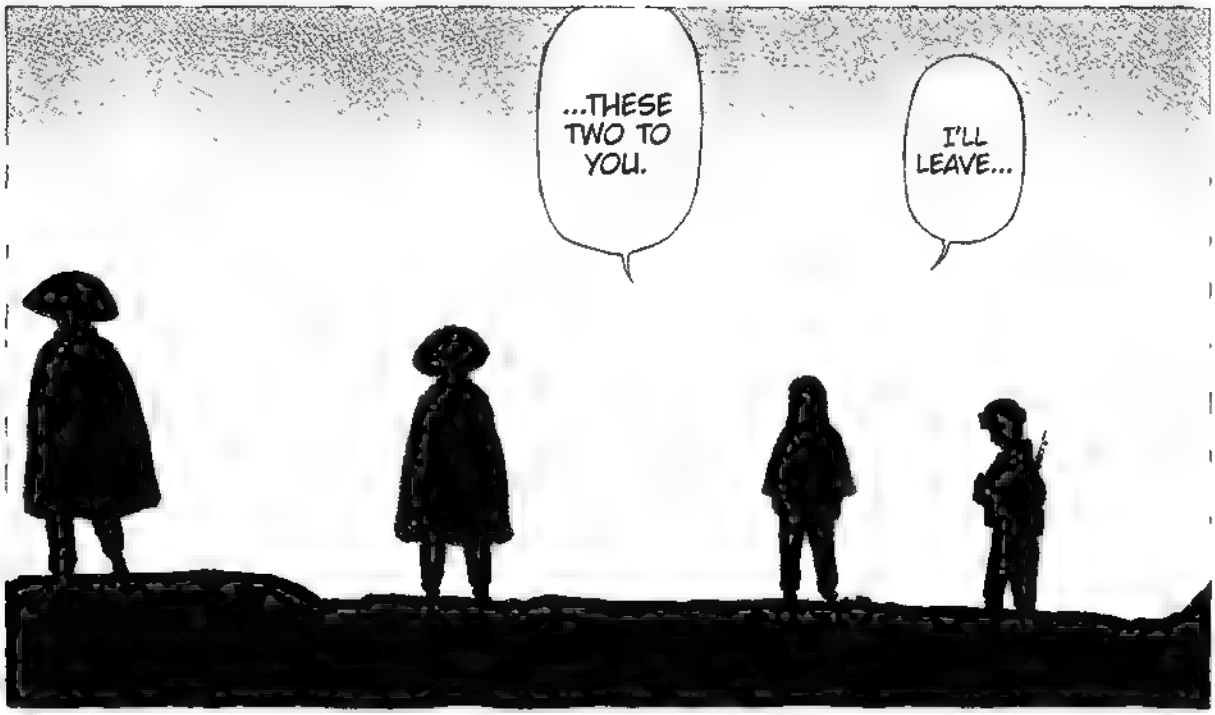

I DON'T LIKE THE STREETS. I CAN'T BREATHE THERE.



WAAH!
I CAN'T STAND YOU!
ARHG!
BITCH!


BROTHER!

HUH!

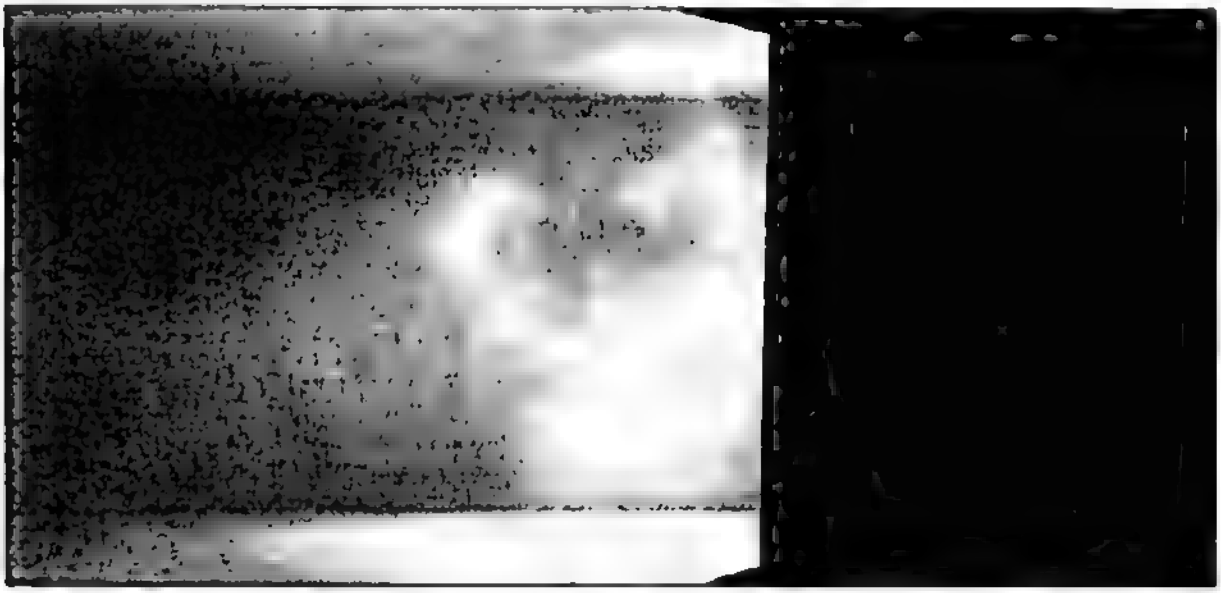

...THESE TWO TO YOU.
I'LL LEAVE...

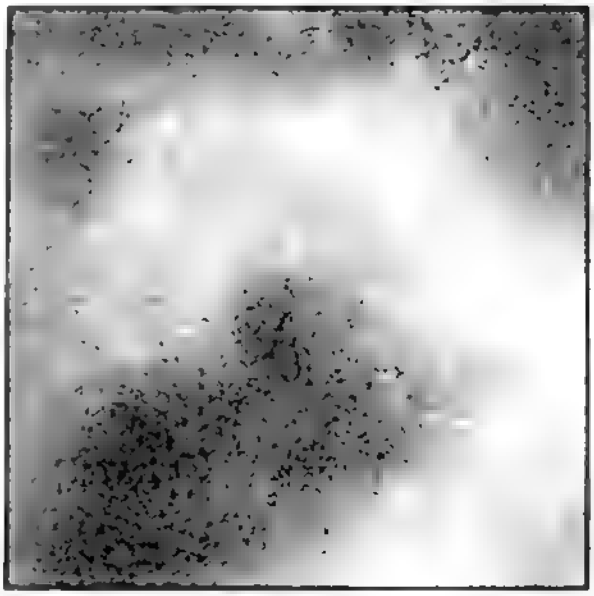
CLENCH
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.

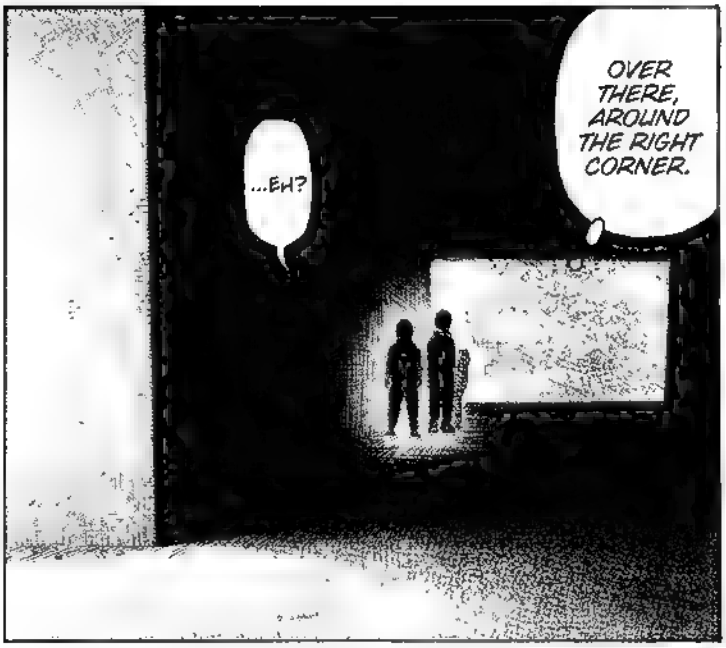
SHUT UP!
WAA-AAH...

Please forgive her!
Please forgive her!
She's just ill!
SIIIIGH
Eee eeh!
Uuuh hhg!

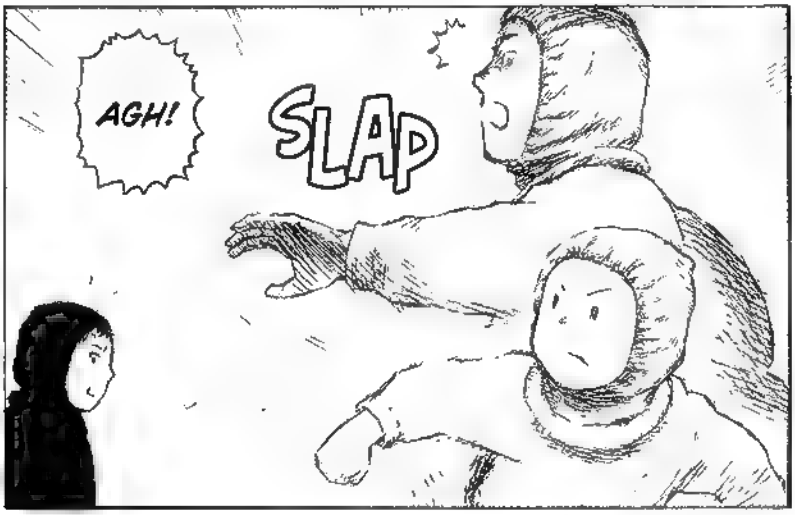
Huh!

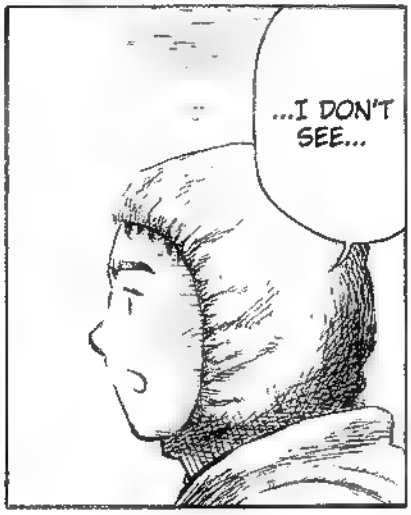




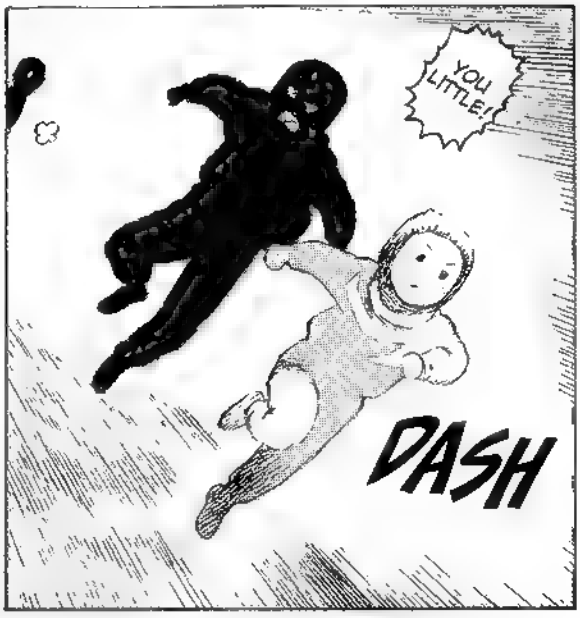

...EH?
OVER THERE, AROUND THE RIGHT CORNER.

!
S-SOMEONE'S HERE!
WHISPER

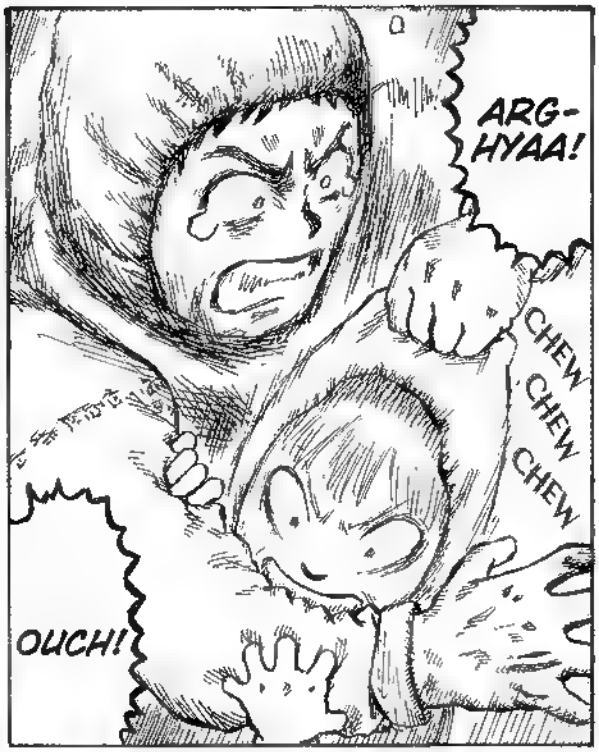

AGH!
SLAP


...I DON'T SEE...

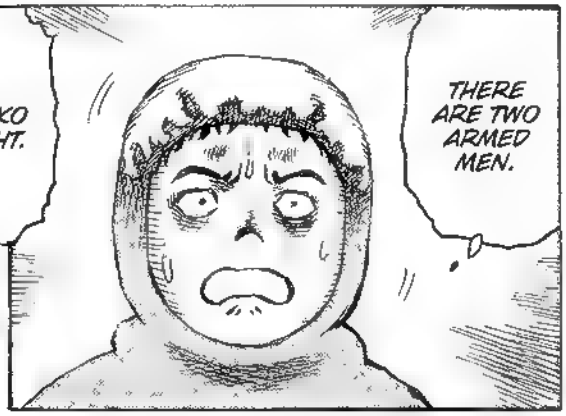
...
You fell! Hahaha, dumbass!
THUMP
Oow!

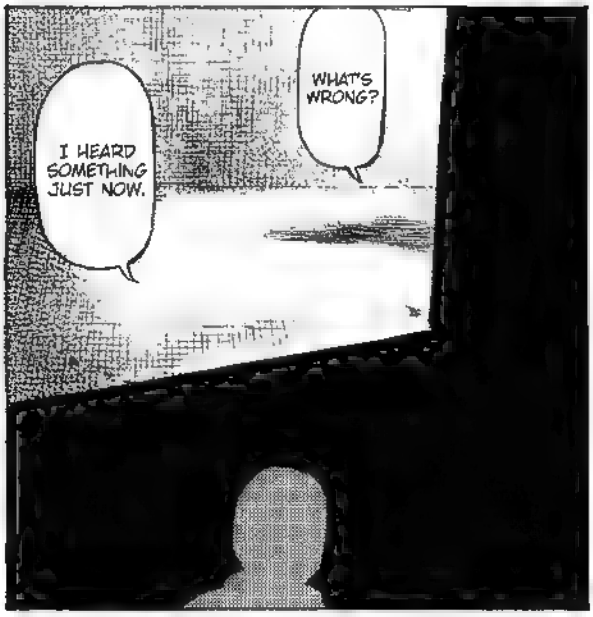

YOU LITTLE!
DASH

SSHH!

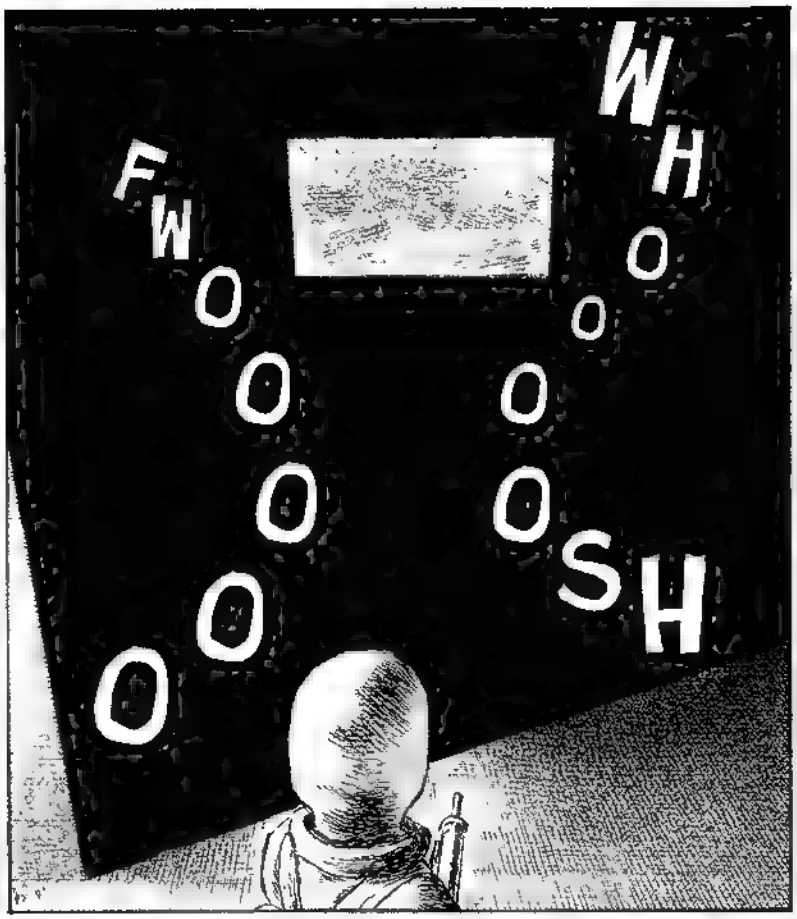

ARG-HYAA!
CHEW CHEW CHEW
OUCH!

DROOP
...WHA.
MISS TAIKO WAS RIGHT.

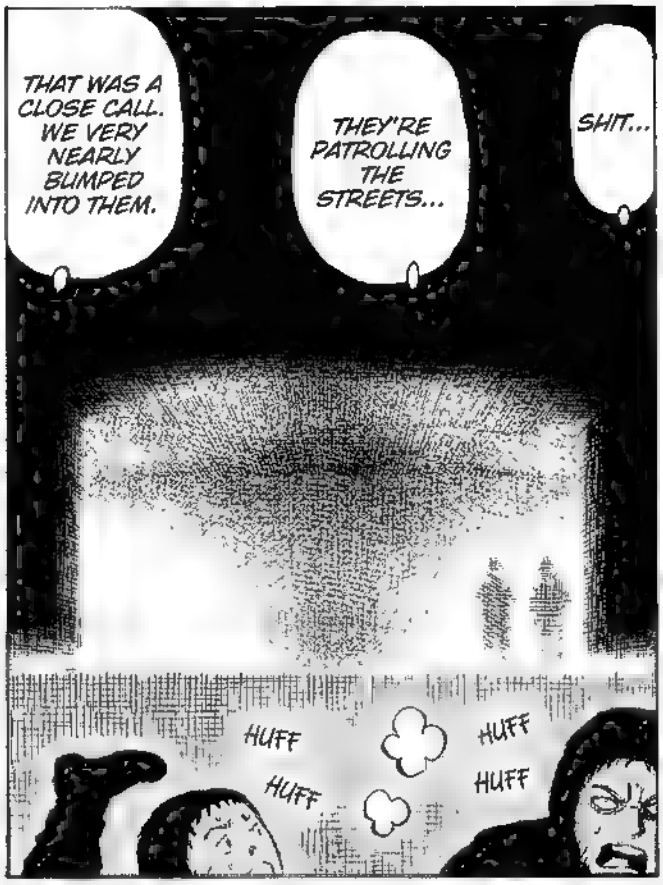

THERE ARE TWO ARMED MEN.

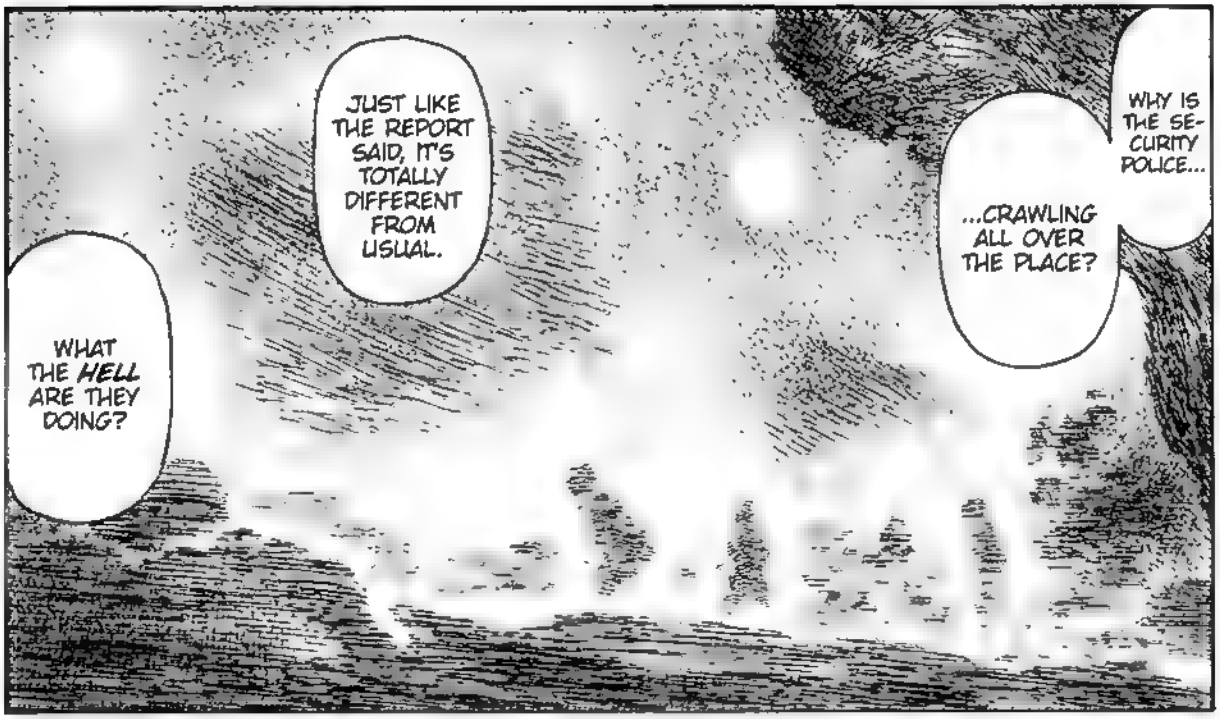

WHAT'S WRONG?
I HEARD SOMETHING JUST NOW.

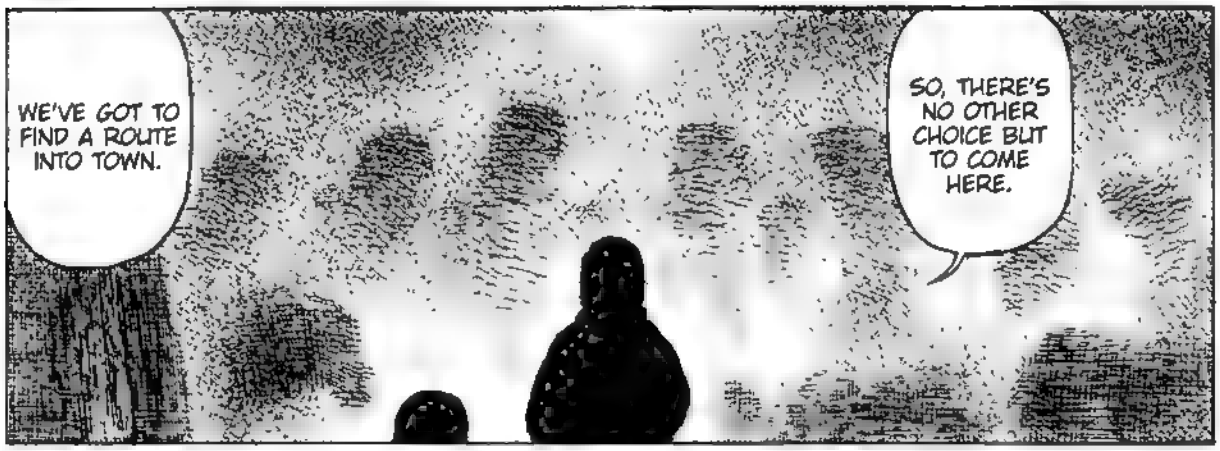
THE GAS IS RUSHING IN.
IT'S WIND.
HOLY SHIT.
FWOOO

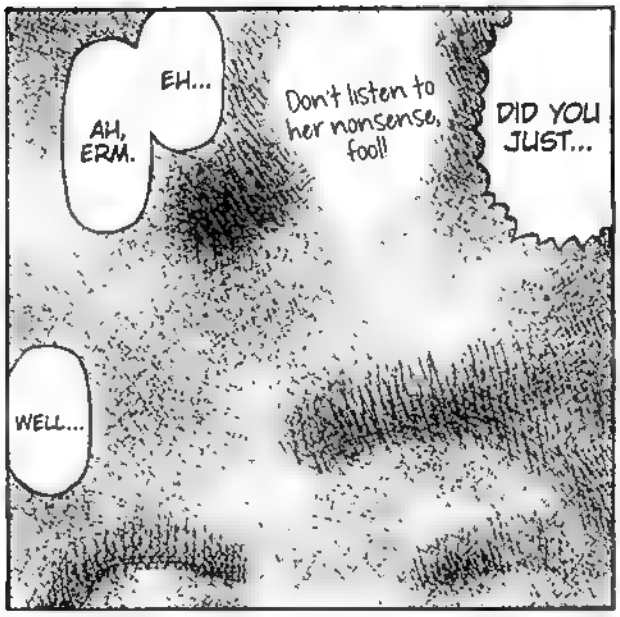

FWOOOOOOOO
WHOOOOOSH

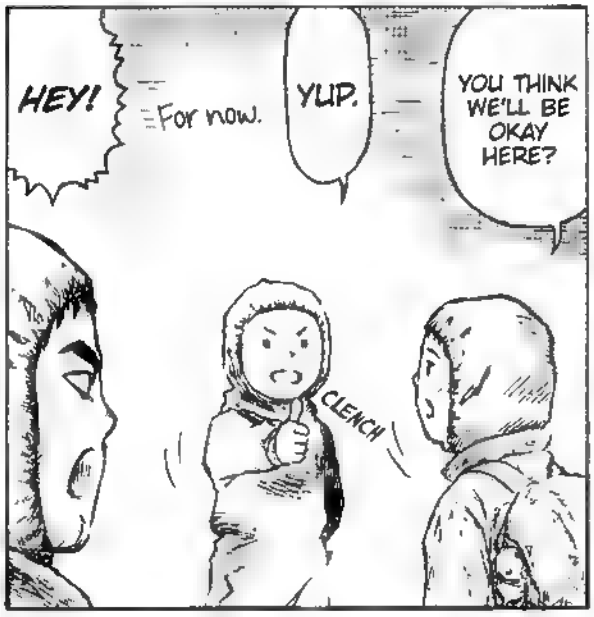
WE WERE SAVED THANKS TO MISS TAIKO.
IDIOT!
IT'S A COINCIDENCE!

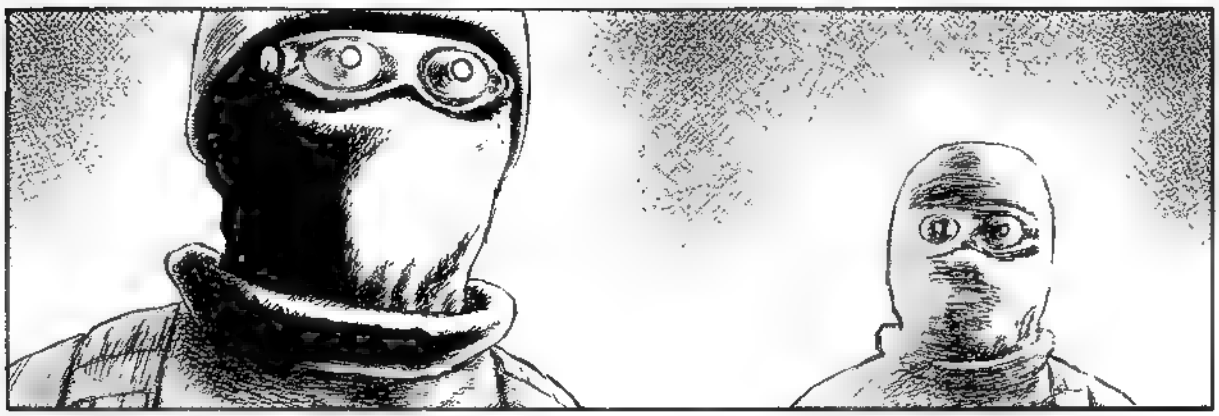

THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL. WE VERY NEARLY BUMPED INTO THEM.
THEY'RE PATROLLING THE STREETS...
SHIT...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

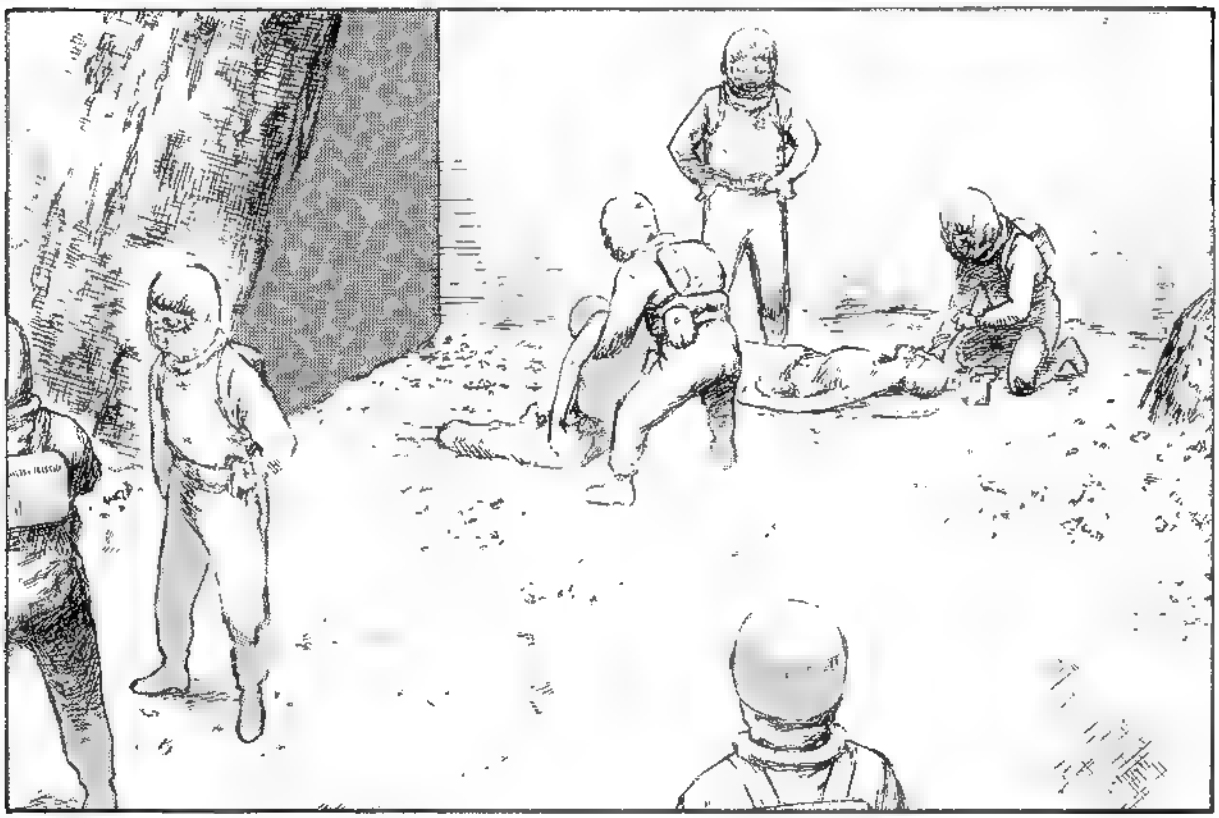

WHY IS THE SECURITY POLICE...
...CRAWLING ALL OVER THE PLACE?
JUST LIKE THE REPORT SAID, IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM USUAL.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING?


SO, THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO COME HERE.
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A ROUTE INTO TOWN.


DID YOU JUST...
Don't listen to her nonsense, fool!
EH...
AH, ERM.
WELL...

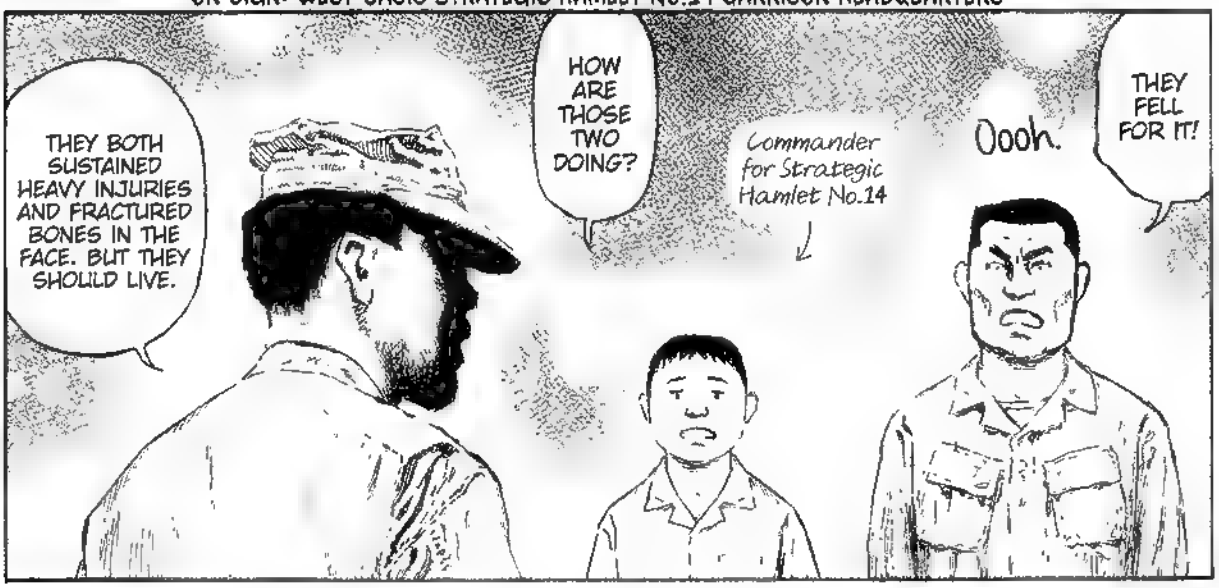

YOU THINK WE'LL BE OKAY HERE?
YUP.
For now.
HEY!
CLENCH

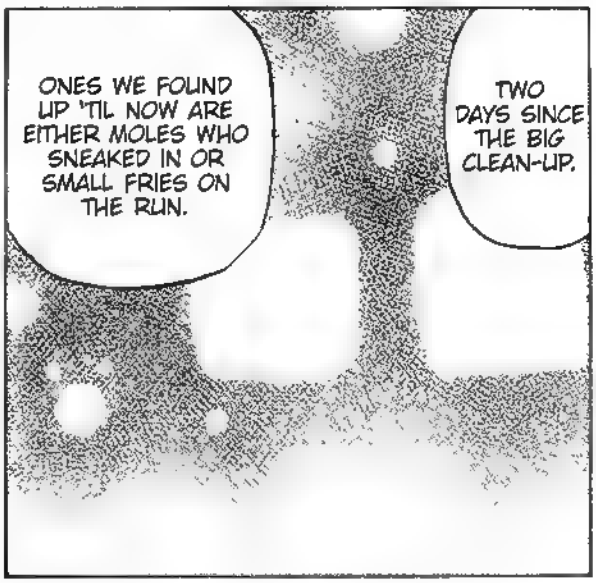




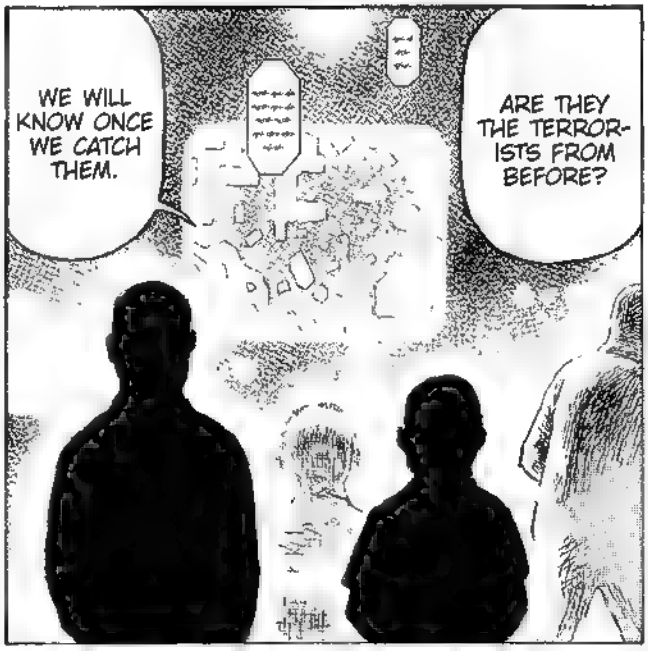
西オアシス
第14戦略村
守備隊司令部

ON SIGN: WEST OASIS STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14 GARRISON HEADQUARTERS



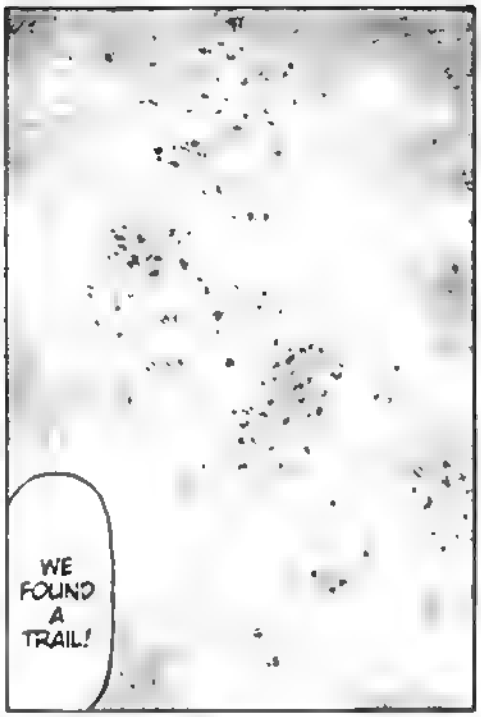


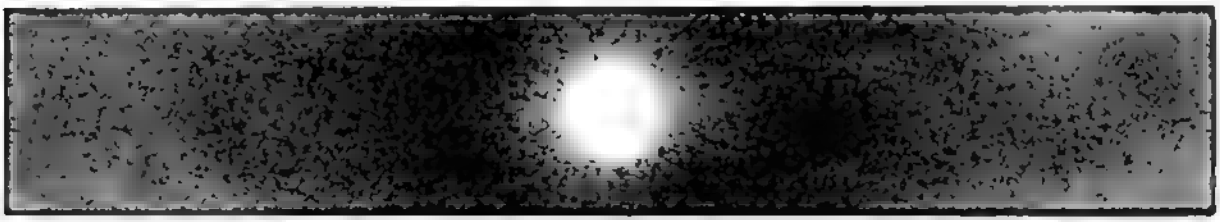
WBS WAS SURROUNDED WHEN WE LOST CONTACT WITH 025 AND 026.
STATUS UP-DATE?
GOOD.

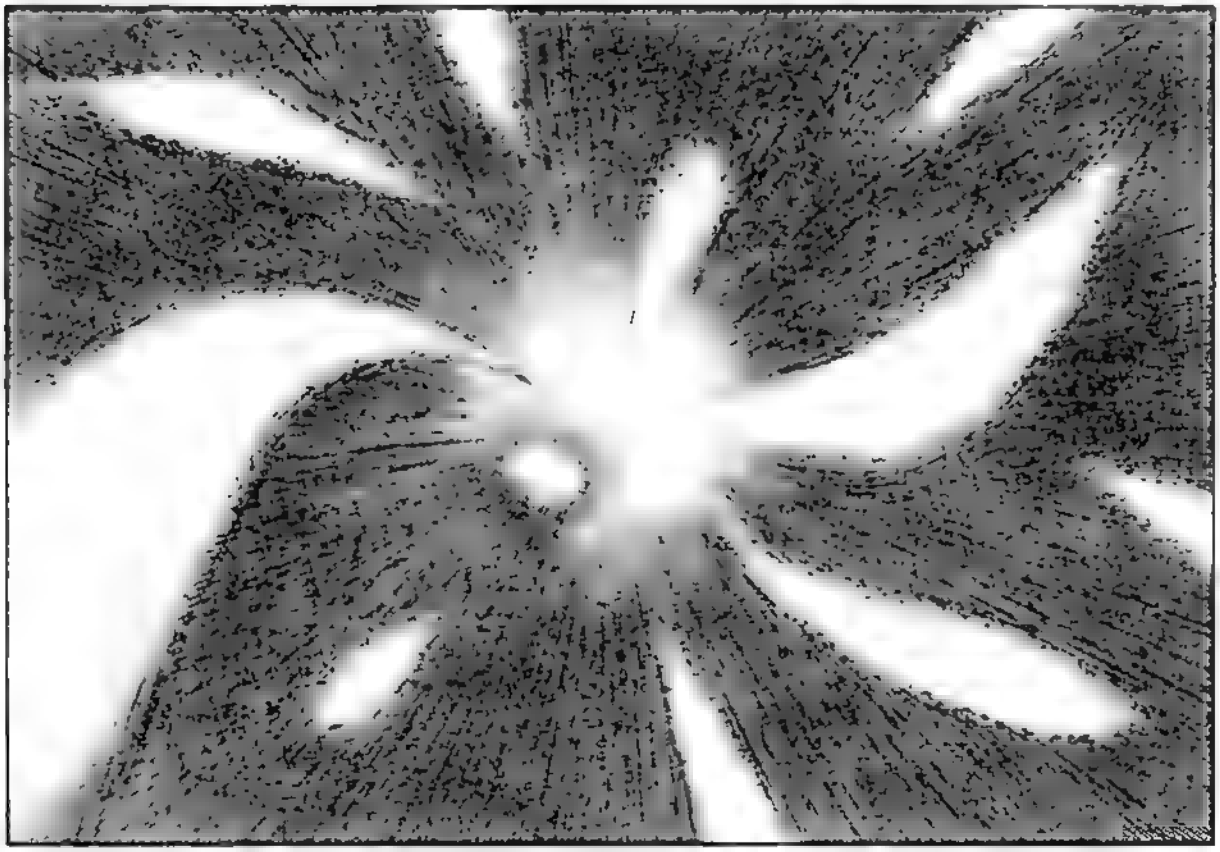

WE WILL KNOW ONCE WE CATCH THEM.
ARE THEY THE TERROR-ISTS FROM BEFORE?

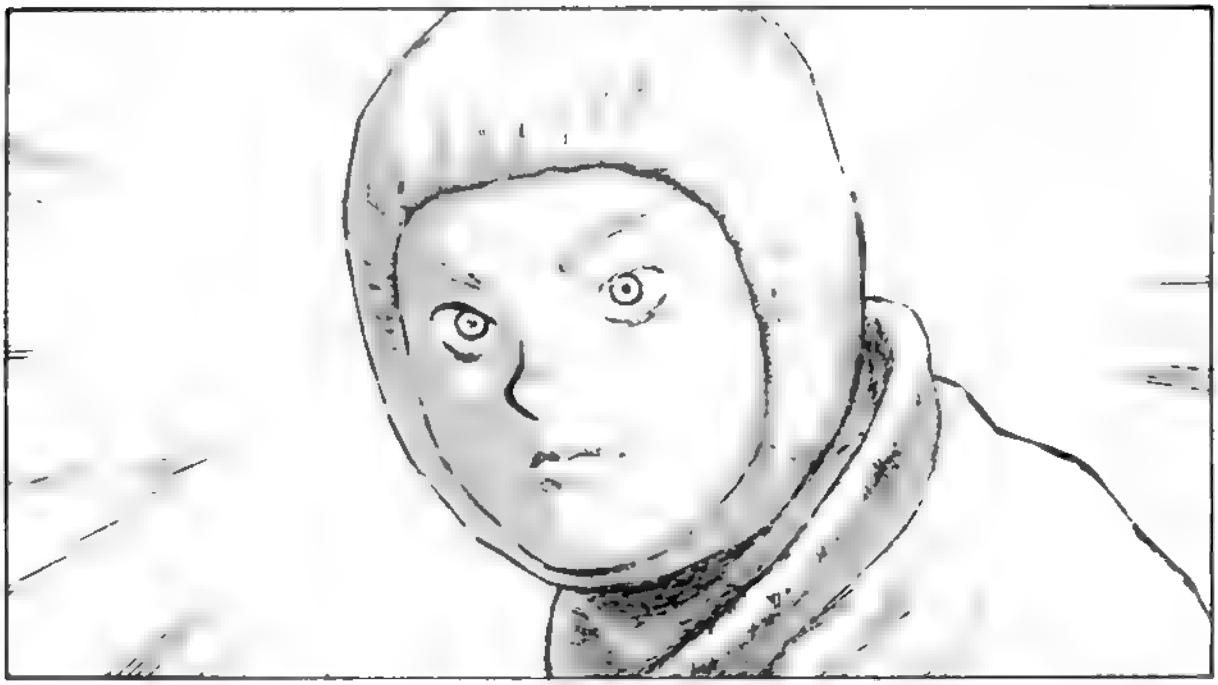
ISN'T THIS A BIT TOO EASY?

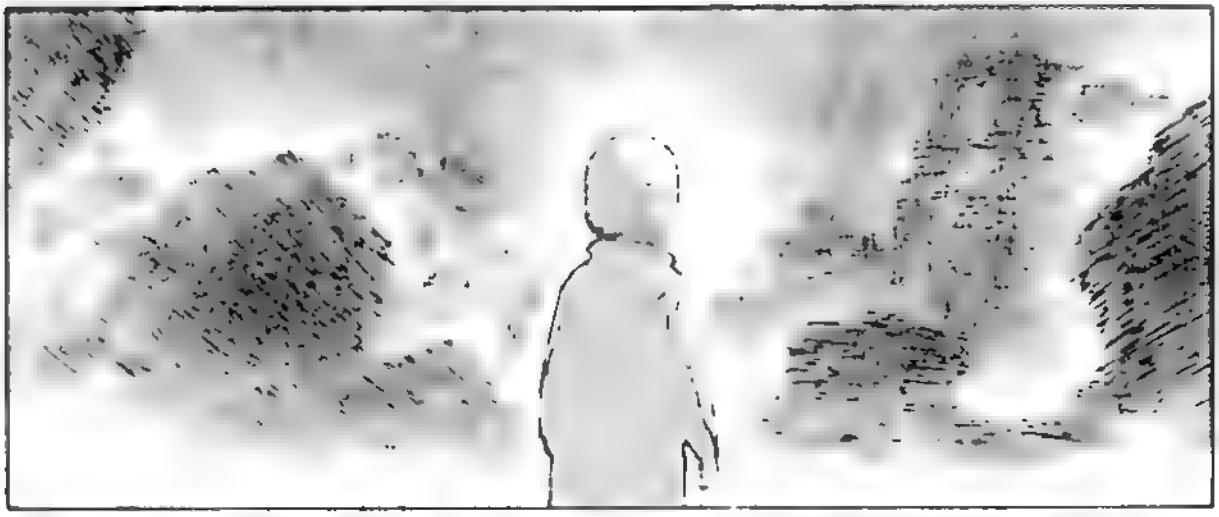
UNDER-
STOOD
TRACK
THEM.

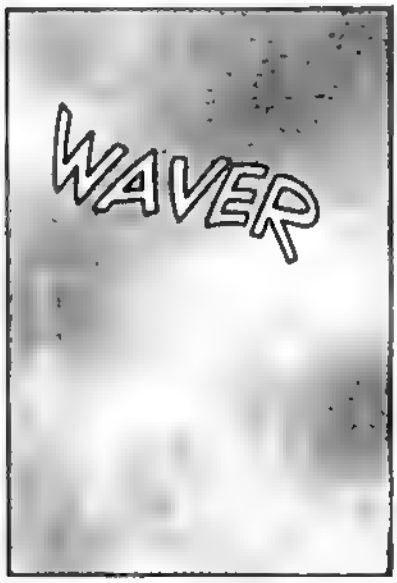

WE
FOUND
A
TRAIL!



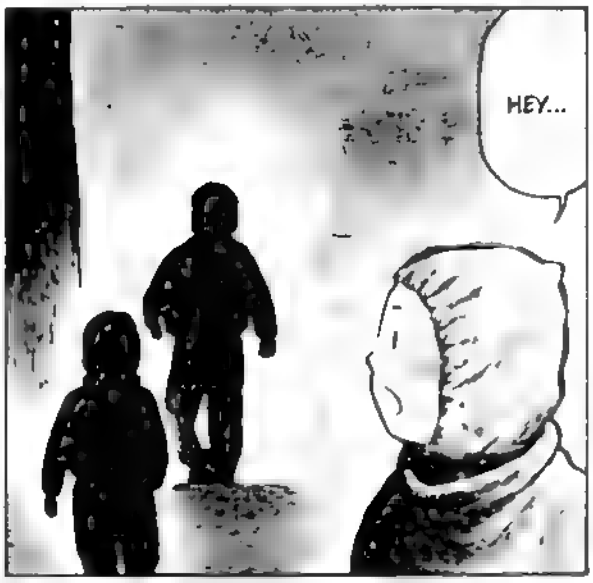


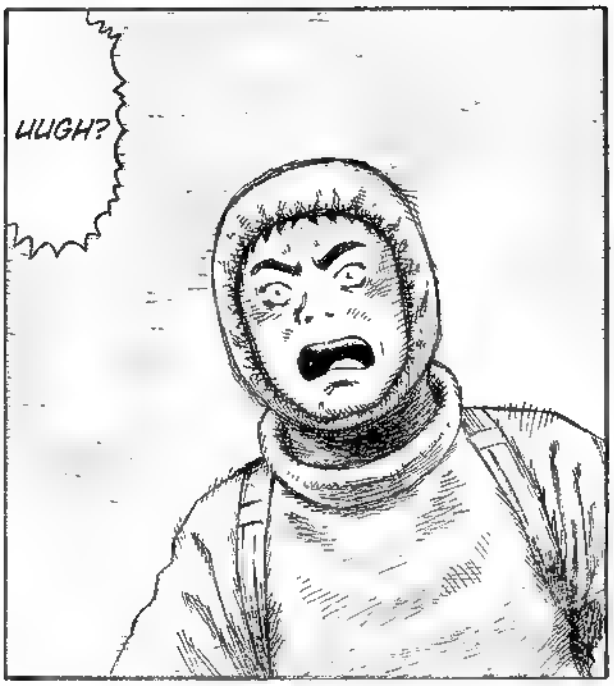




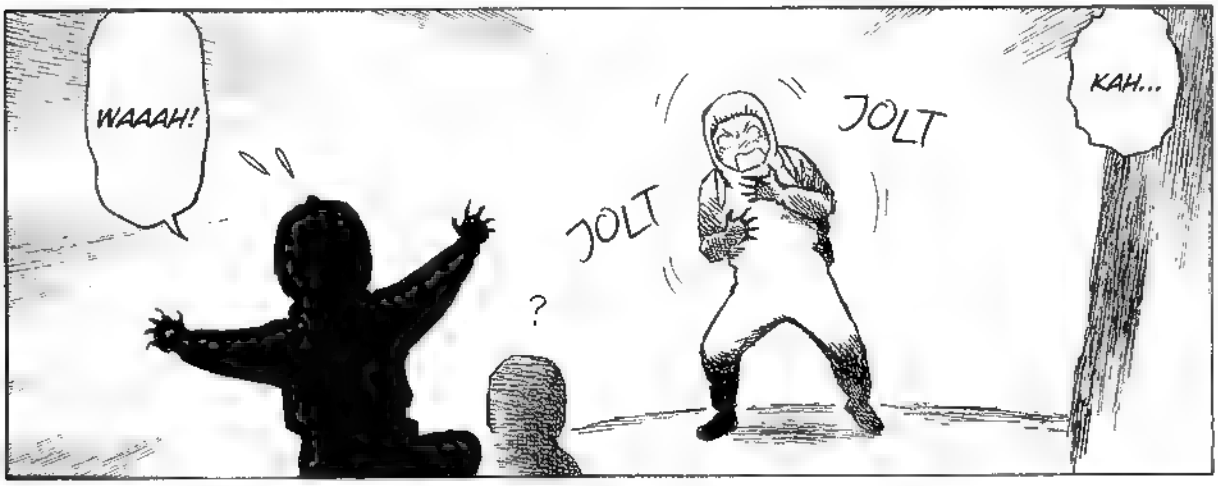

WAVER

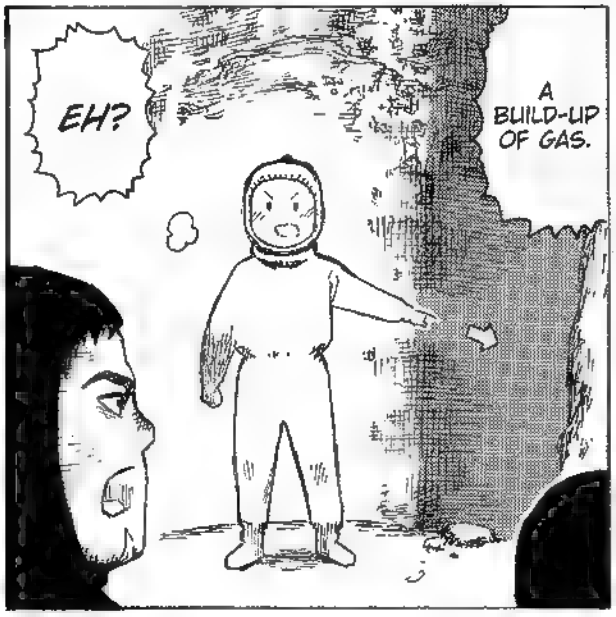
HUH!

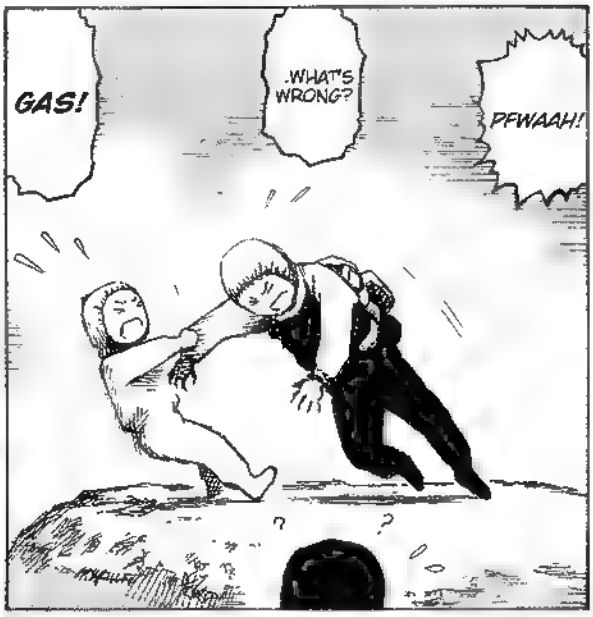

HEY...

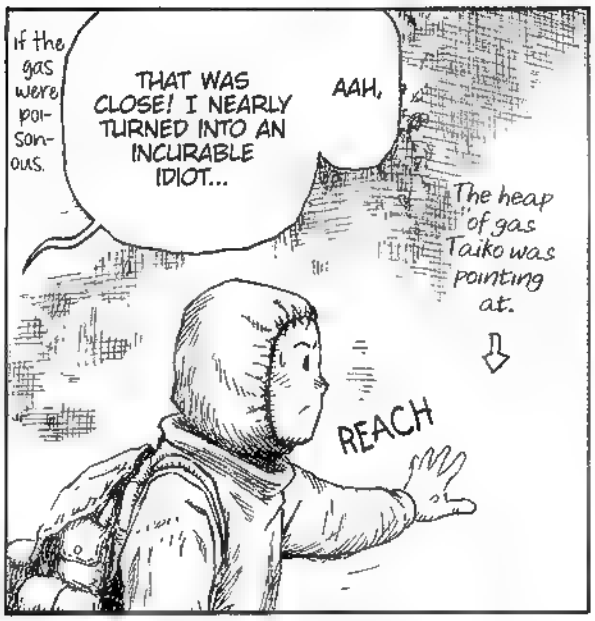

HUGH?

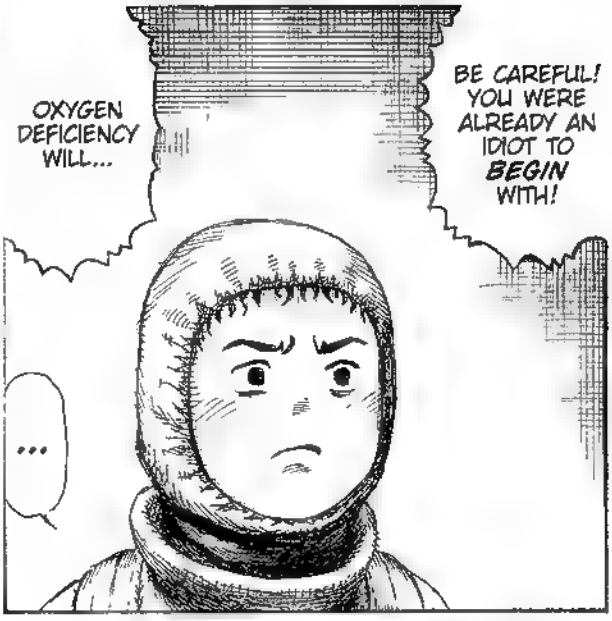
CARE-
FUL!


WAAAH!
JOLT
JOLT
KAH...
?

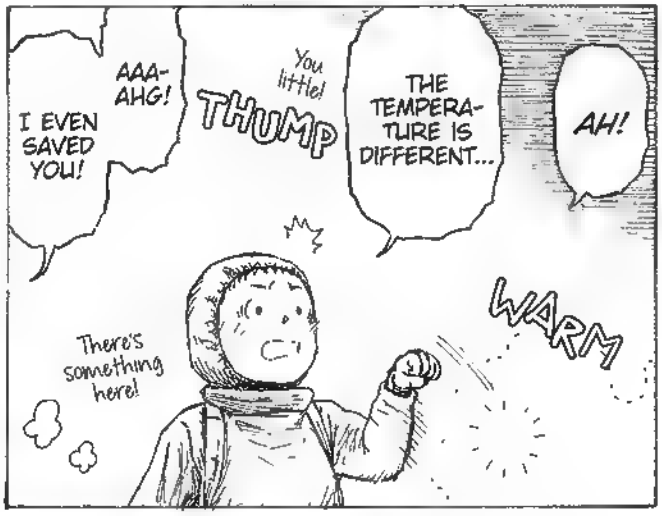

EH?
A
BUILD-UP
OF GAS.

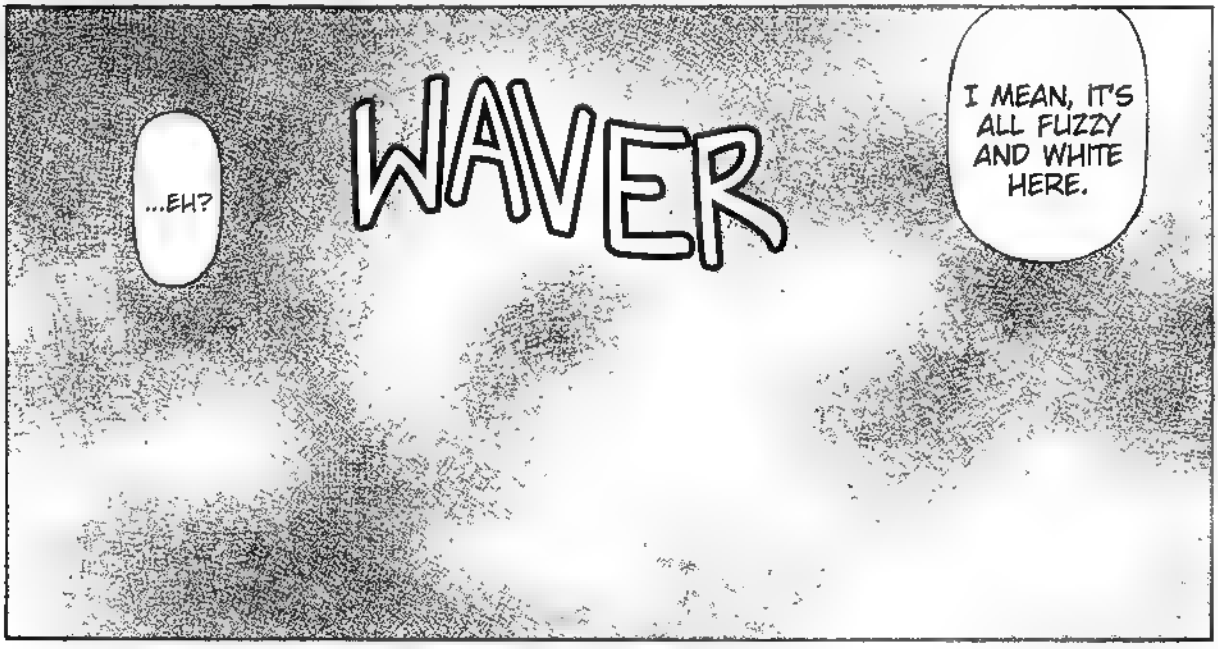

GAS!
WHAT'S
WRONG?
PFWAAH!
?
?


If the gas were poisonous.
THAT WAS CLOSE! I NEARLY TURNED INTO AN INCURABLE IDIOT...
AAH,
The heap of gas Taiko was pointing at.
REACH


OXYGEN DEFICIENCY WILL...
BE CAREFUL! YOU WERE ALREADY AN IDIOT TO BEGIN WITH!
...

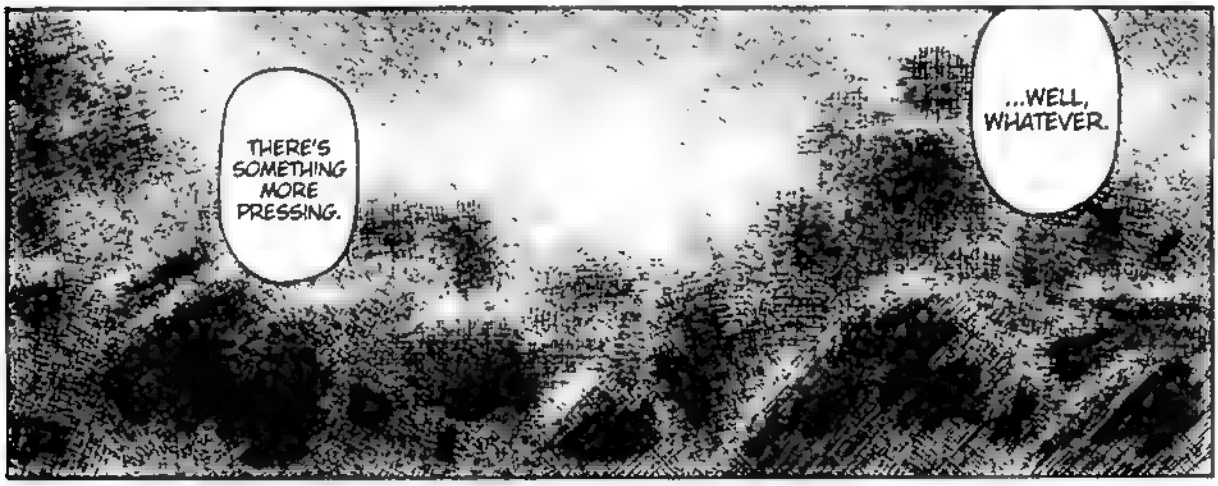
HOW I KNEW...
THROB
THROB
IT'S AMAZING HOW YOU KNEW.


I EVEN SAVED YOU!
AAA-AHG!
You little!
THUMP
THE TEMPERATURE IS DIFFERENT...
AH!
There's something here!
WARM


...EH?
WAVER
I MEAN, IT'S ALL FUZZY AND WHITE HERE.

GLOWER
GLOWER

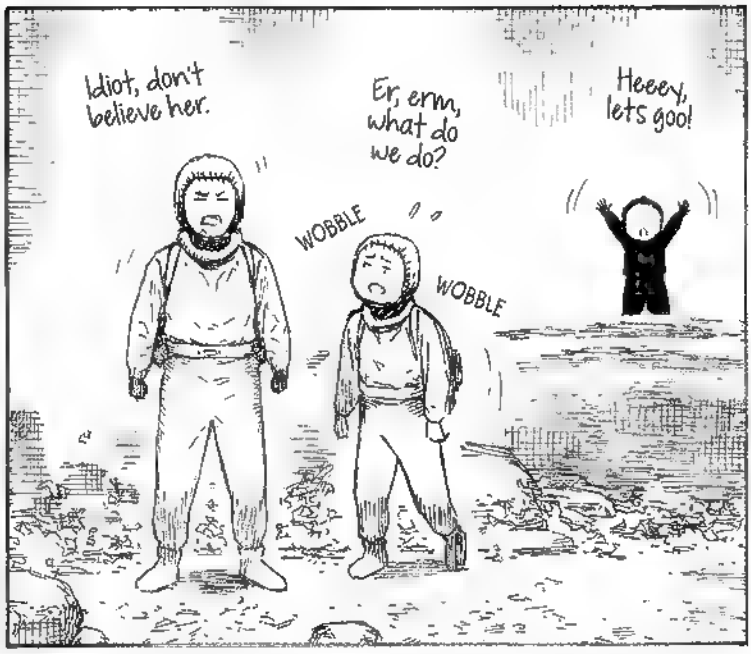
...YOU CAN'T?
...YOU CAN SEE IT?

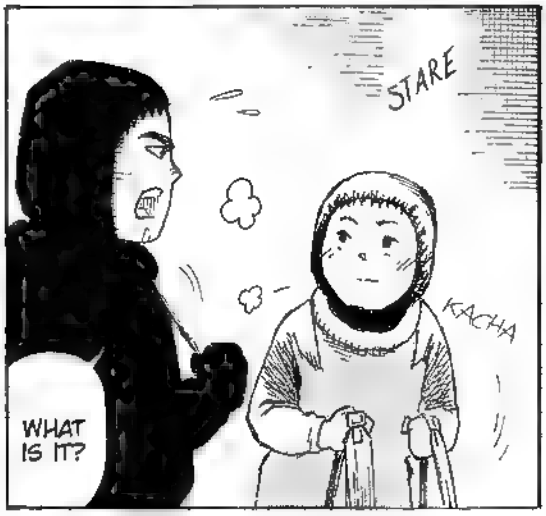

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE PRESSING.
...WELL, WHATEVER.

IT'S THOSE GUYS FROM BEFORE.

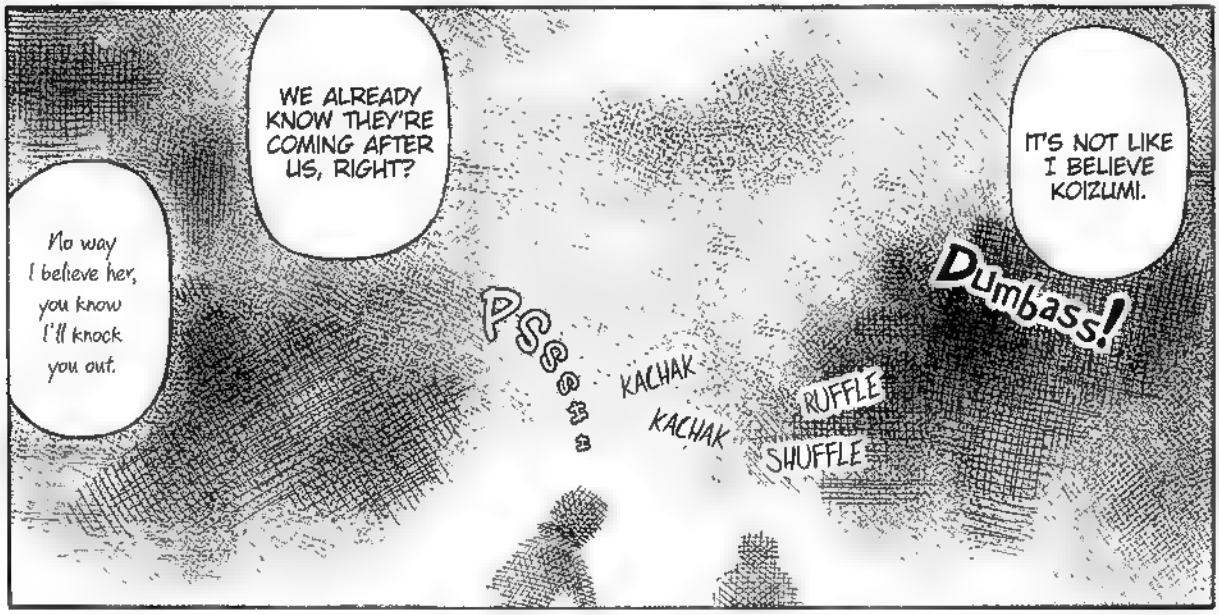
THEY'RE HERE.

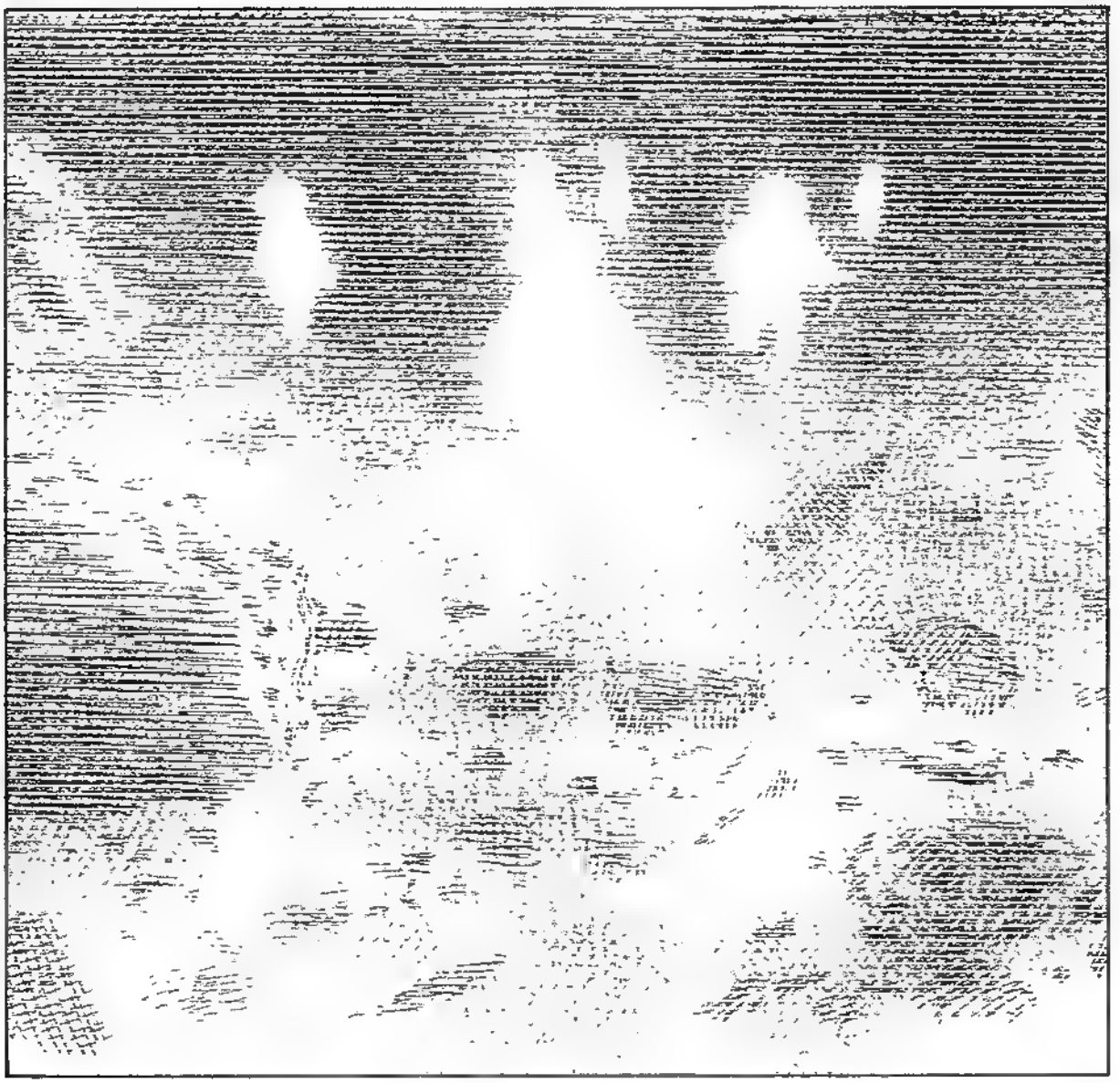
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT

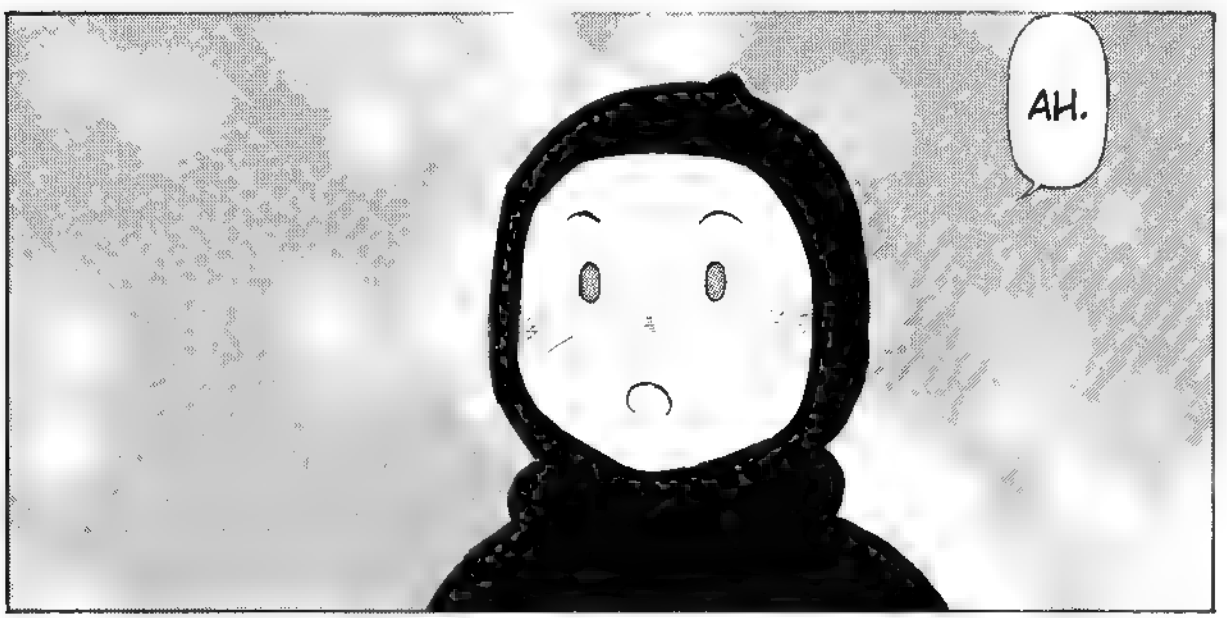

Idiot, don't believe her.
Er, erm, what do we do?
Heeey, lets goo!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE


STARE
KACHA
WHAT IS IT?

HURRY.
JUST PUT ON YOUR MASK.

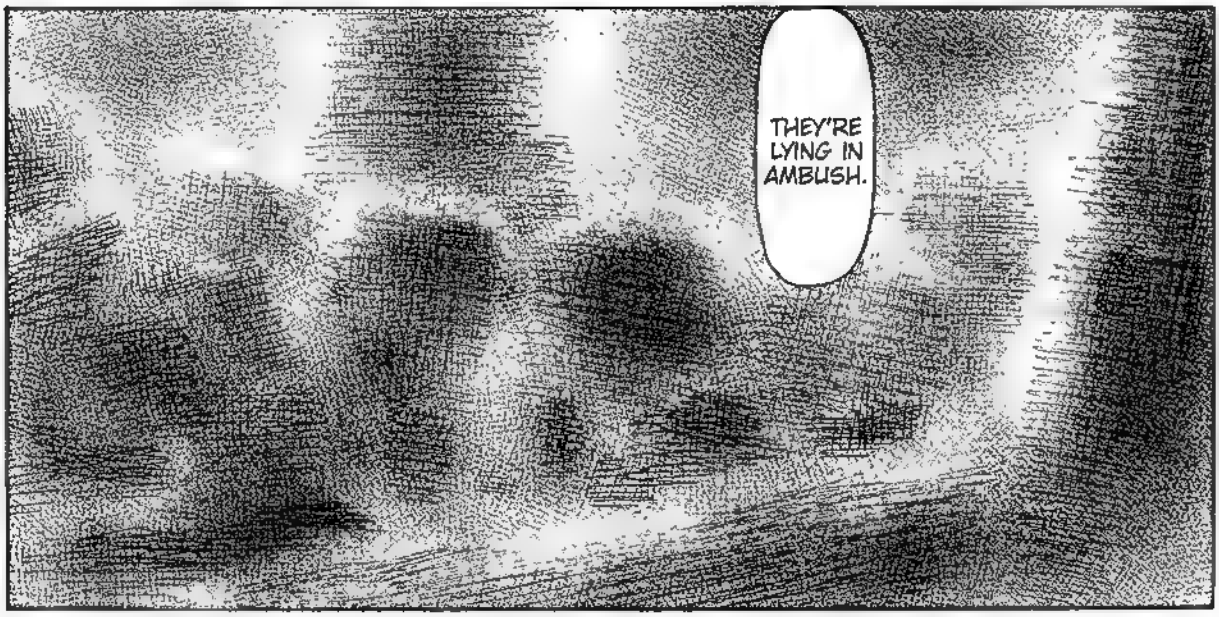

WE ALREADY KNOW THEY'RE COMING AFTER US, RIGHT?
No way I believe her, you know I'll knock you out.
IT'S NOT LIKE I BELIEVE KOIZUMI.
Dumbass!
PSSSSSSSSSS
KACHAK
KACHAK
RUFFLE
SHUFFLE



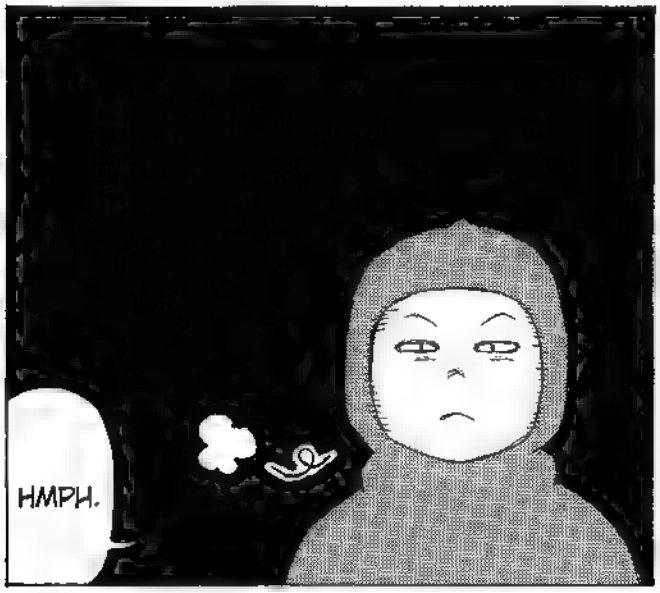

AH.

...EH?
THEY'RE IN FRONT OF US TOO!

TWO AT 2 O'CLOCK, 250 METERS.
TWO AT 11 O'CLOCK, 300 METERS.


THEY'RE LYING IN AMBUSH.

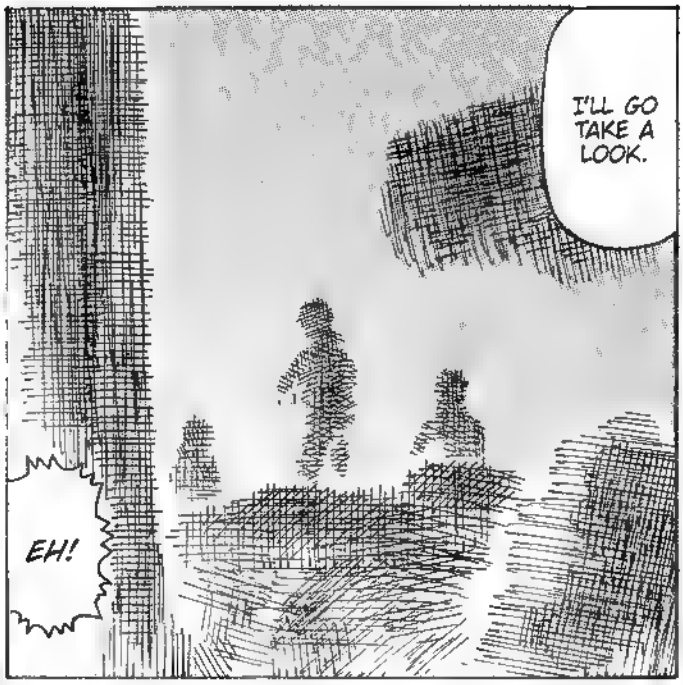
Uwaah, they trapped us!
WE'RE SUR-ROUND-ED...
WE...
FIDGET
FIDGET

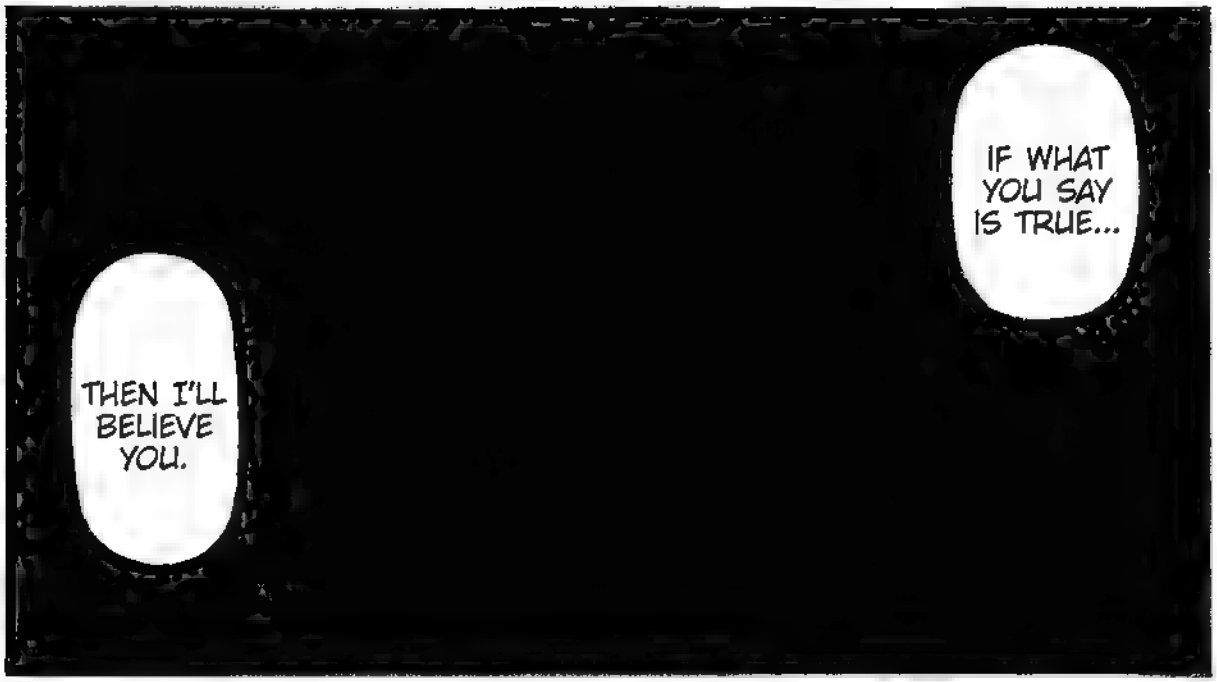

HMPH.

SSHUUU

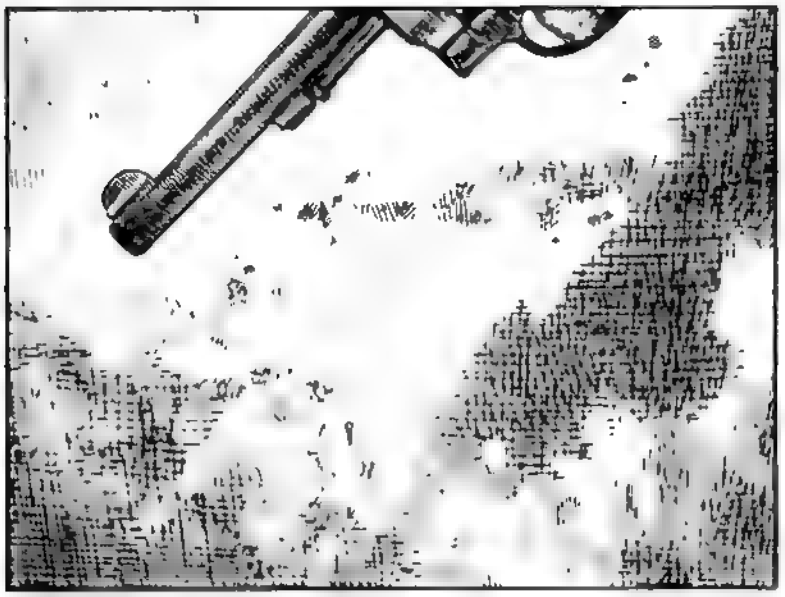
CHA

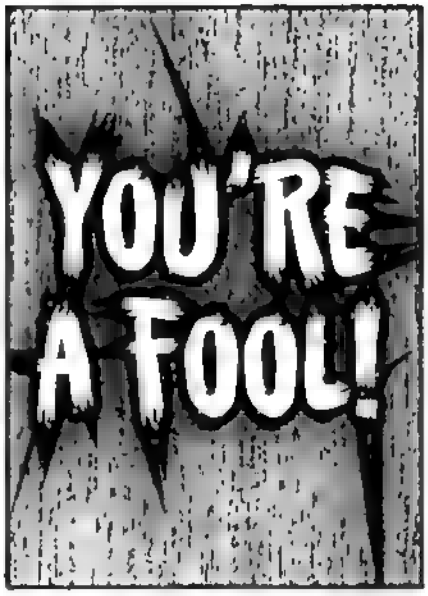
YOU GUYS GO HIDE.
B-BUT!
DON'T MOVE!

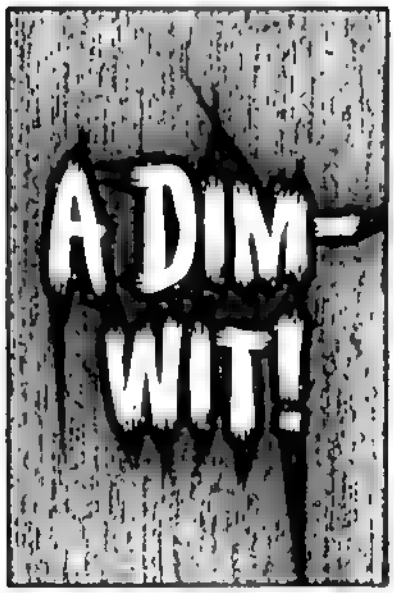

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.
EH!

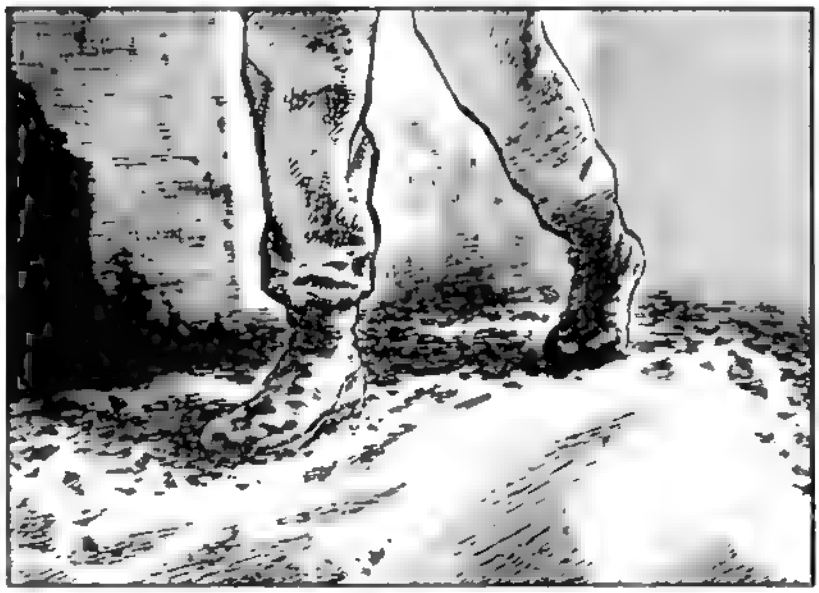

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE...
THEN I'LL BELIEVE YOU.

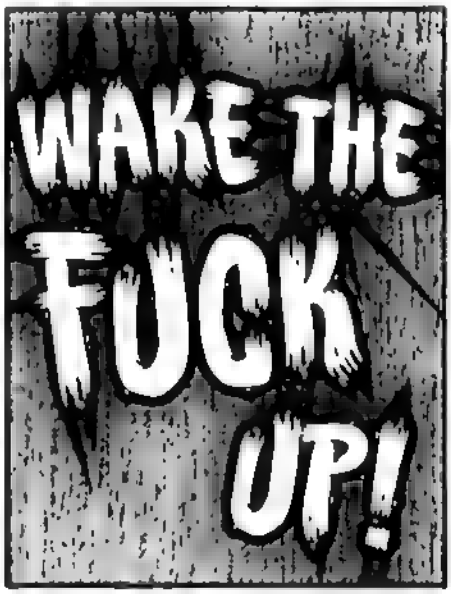
VOL. 110

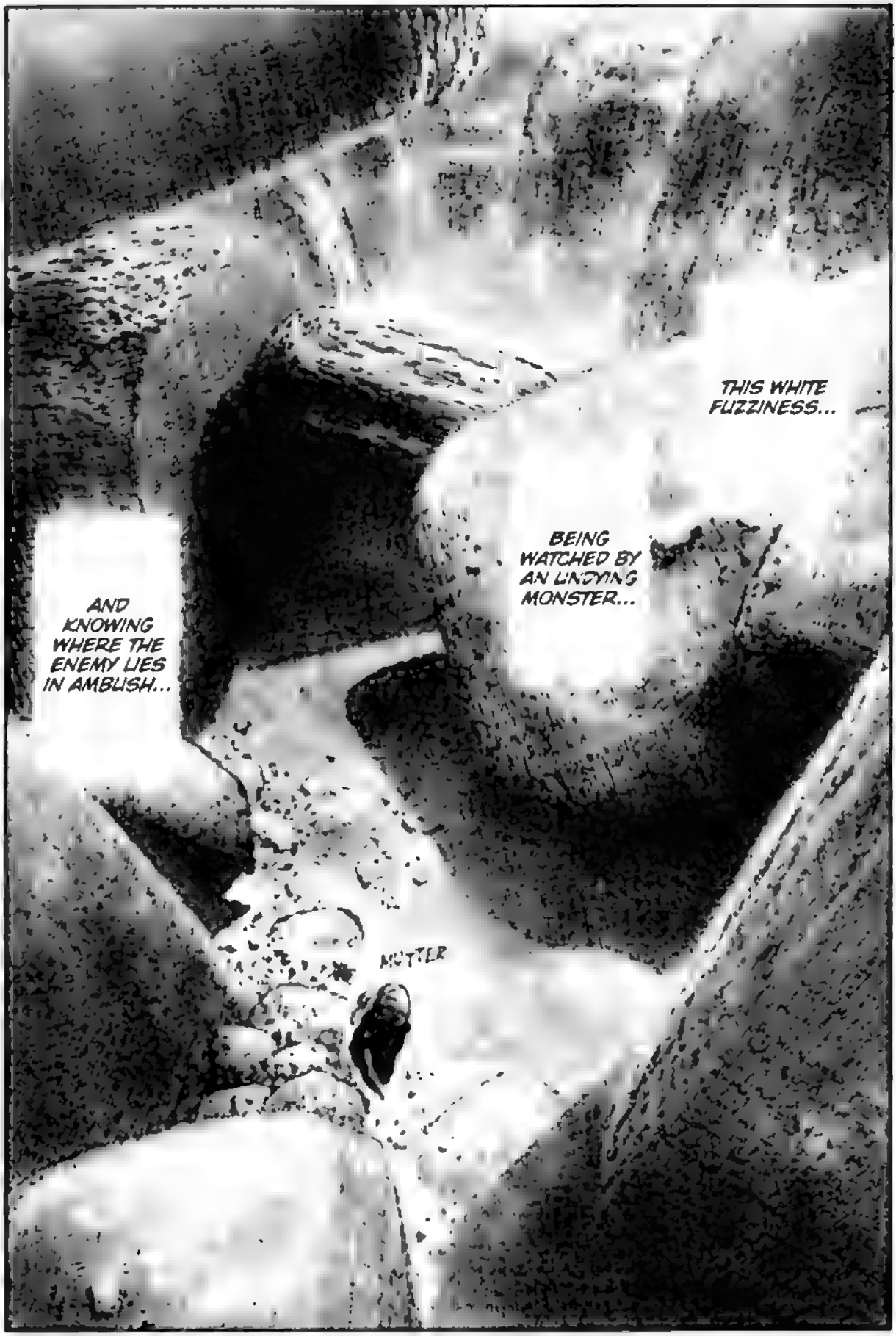


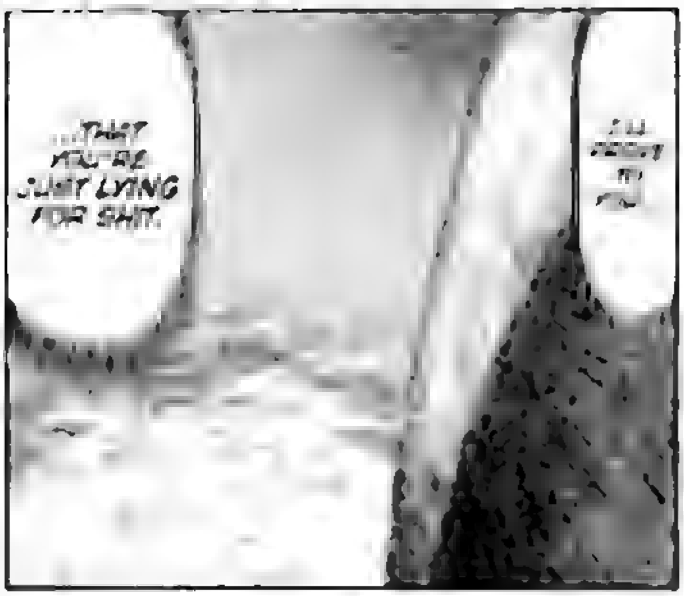

YOU'RE A FOOL!

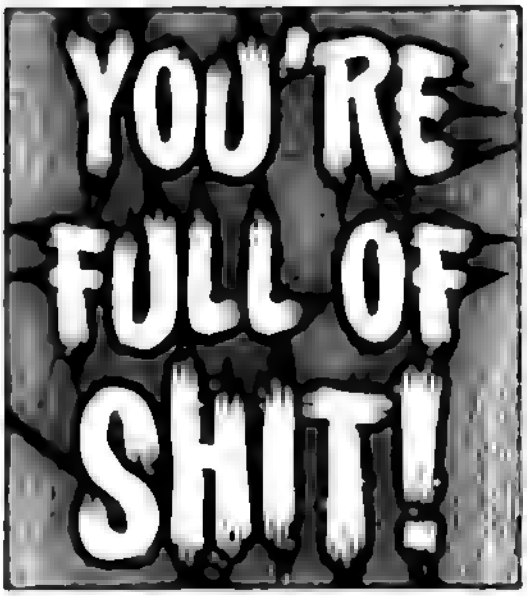

A DIM-WIT!

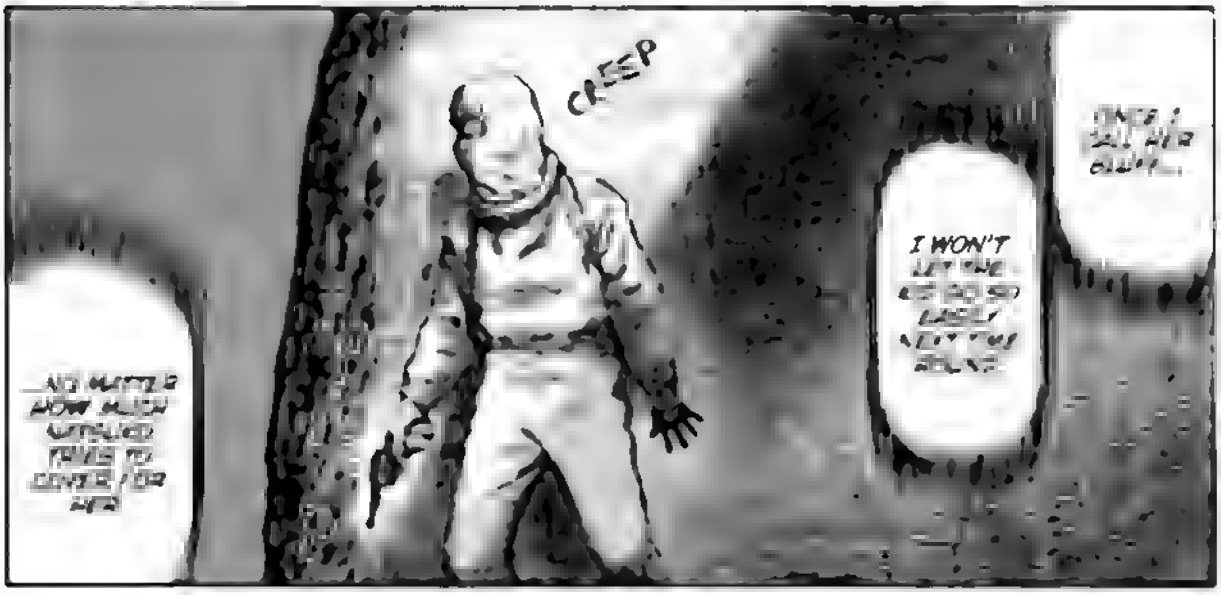



WAKE THE FUCK UP!

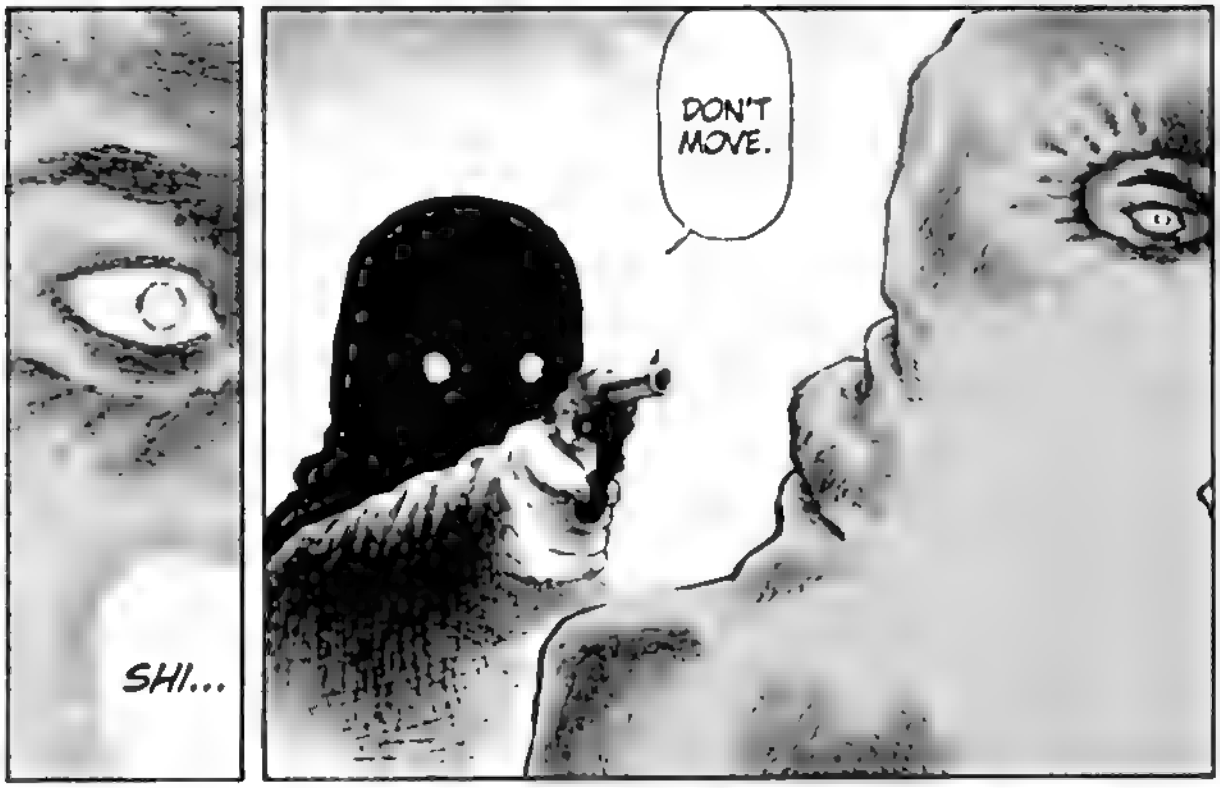

THIS WHITE FUZZINESS...
BEING WATCHED BY AN UNDYING MONSTER...
AND KNOWING WHERE THE ENEMY LIES IN AMBUSH...
MUTTER


...THAT YOU'RE JUST LYING FOR SHIT.


YOU'RE FULL OF SHIT!


CREEP
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH INTELLIGO TRIES TO COVER FOR HER
I WON'T LET THE

CLICK

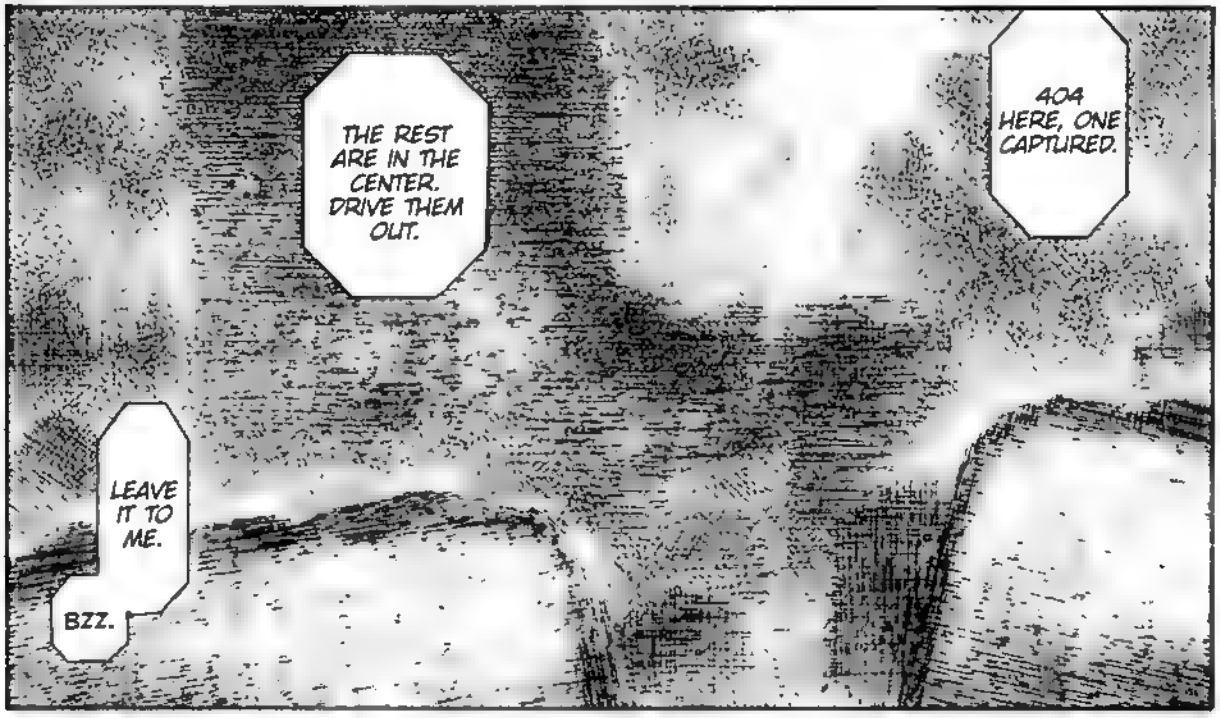

SHI...
DON'T MOVE.

TWO OF THEM AT 11 O'CLOCK, 300 METERS.
Tch...

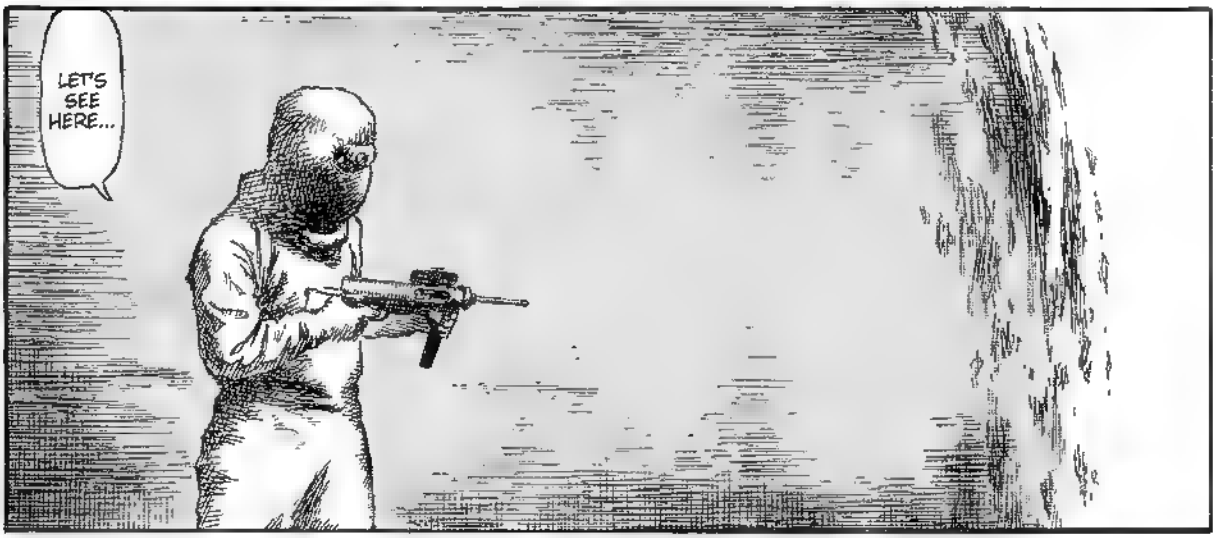
BAM

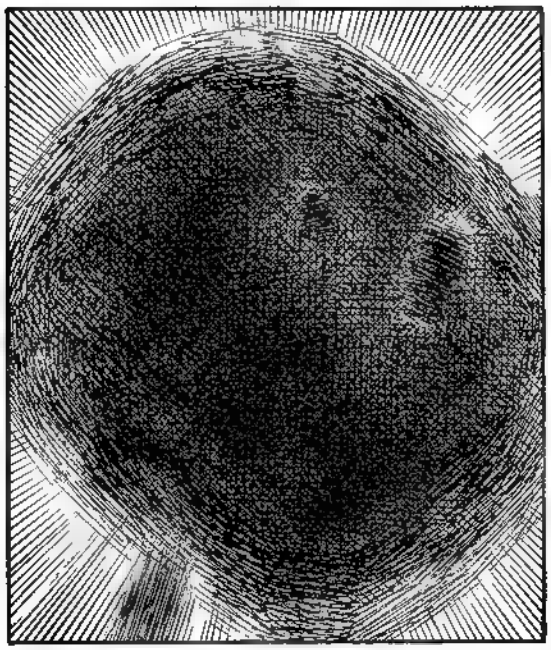
THUD
G'UH!

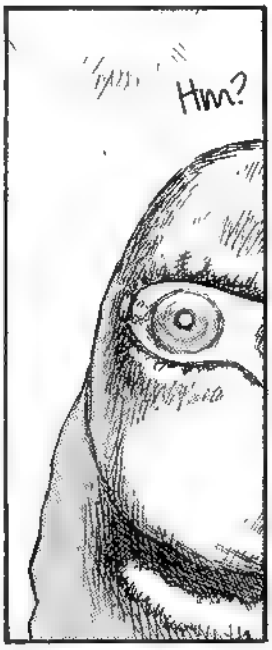
HE'S SCOUTING.
BIND
JUST THIS ONE HERE.
AND THE OTHER TWO?

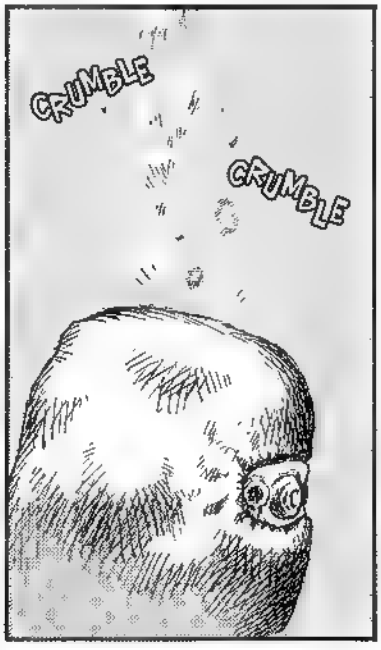

THE REST ARE IN THE CENTER. DRIVE THEM OUT.
404 HERE, ONE CAPTURED.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
BZZ.

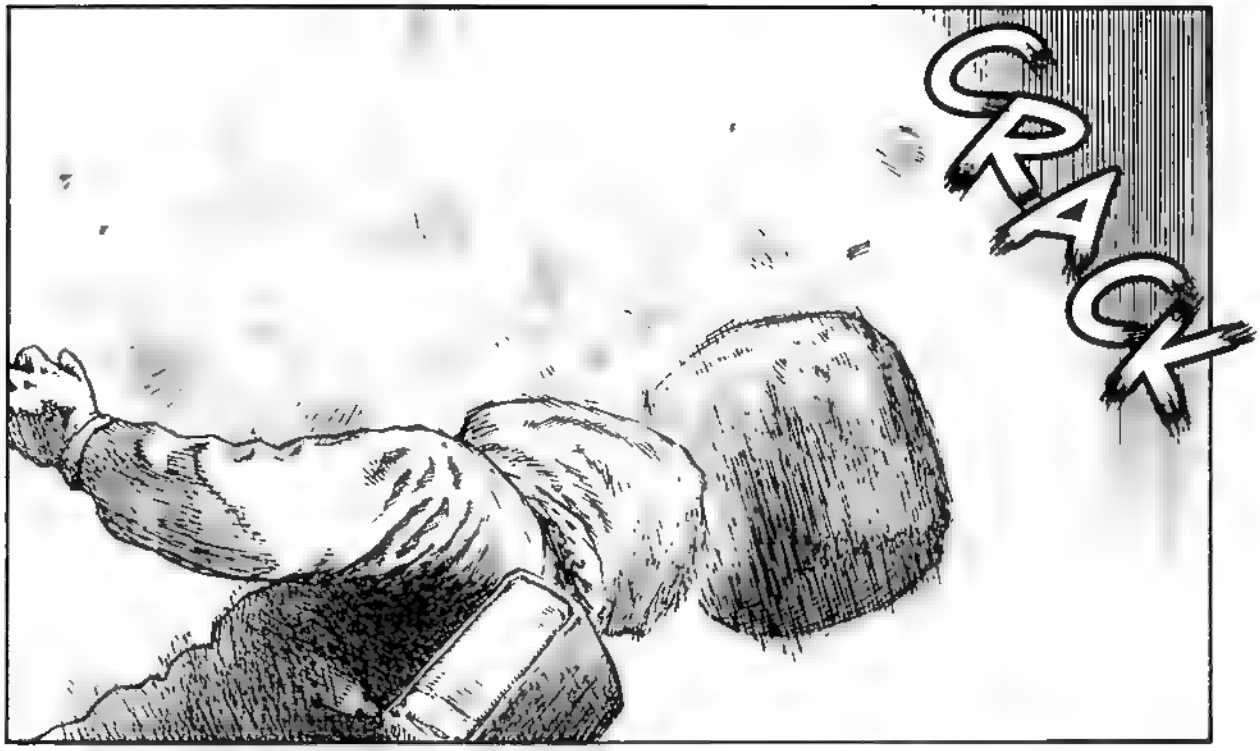
DON'T SCREW UP, OR YOU GONNA GET YOUR BRAIN BLOWN OUT.

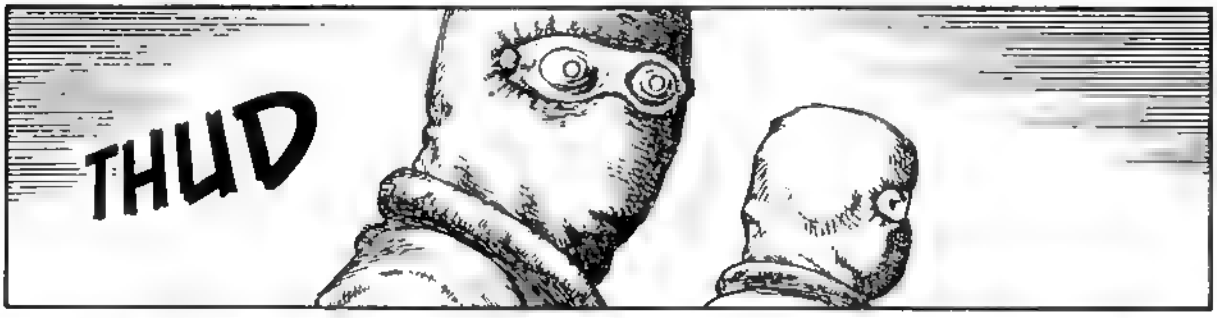

LET'S SEE HERE...




Hm?

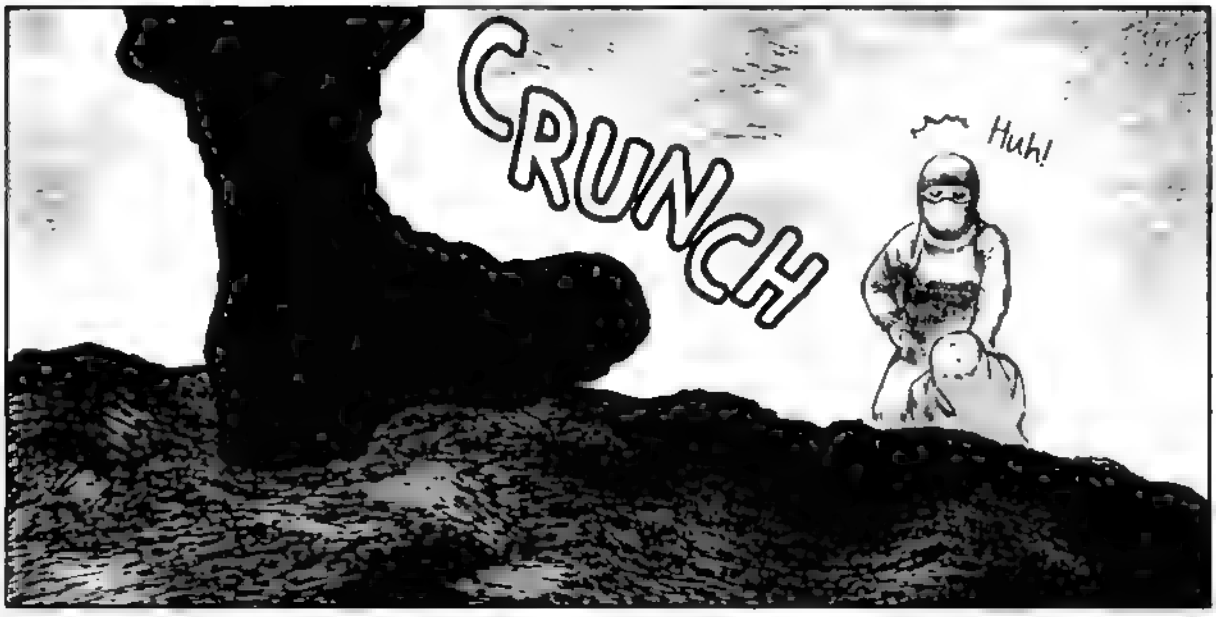

CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

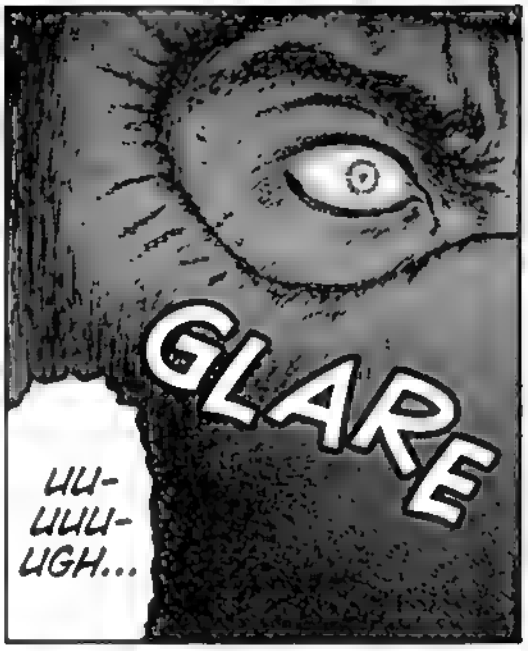

CRACK

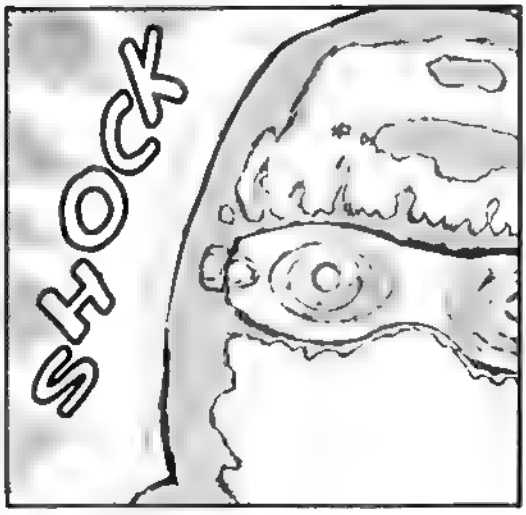

THUD

WHAT THE?
TWIST

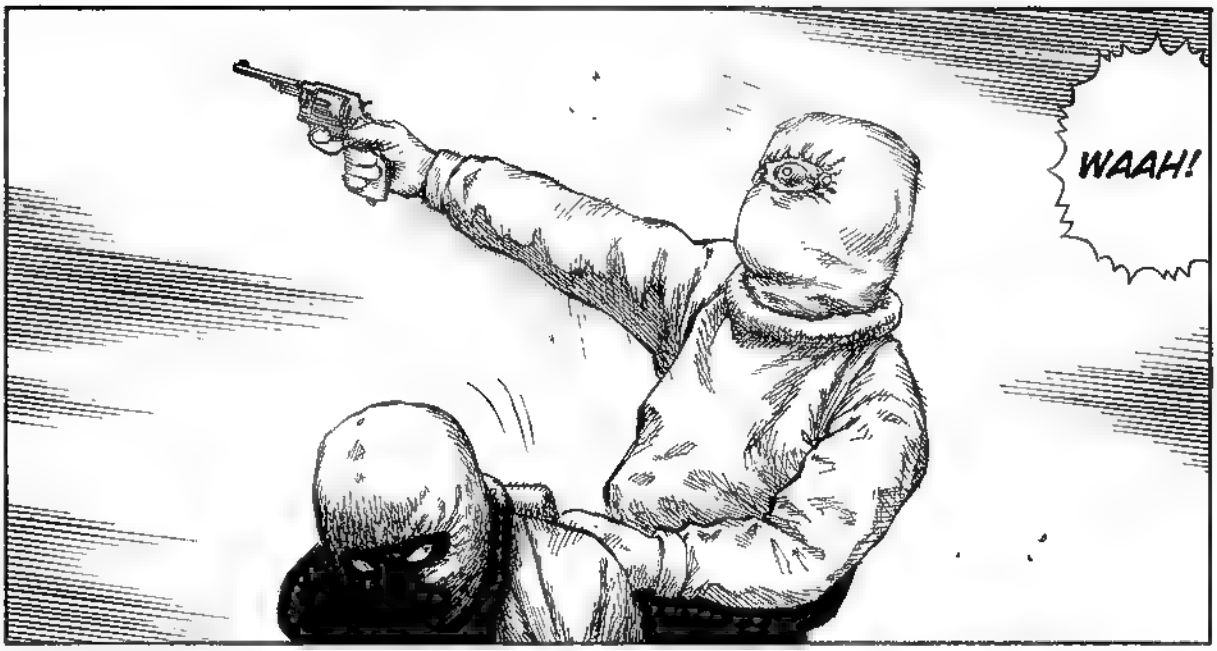
AGH!

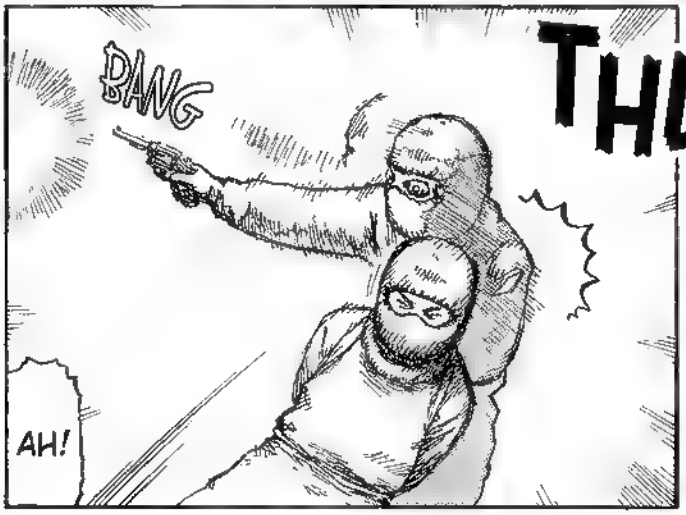

CRUNCH
Huh!

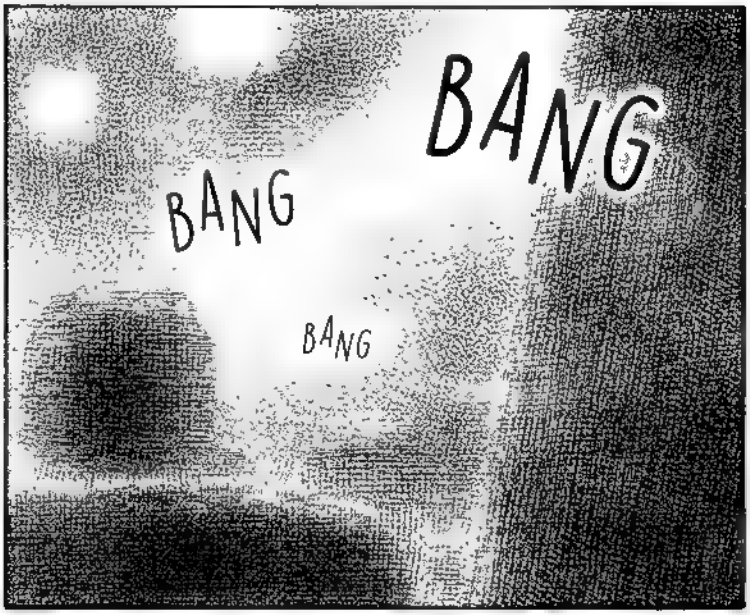

GLARE
UU-
UUU-
UGH...


SHOCK

SHHHHHH

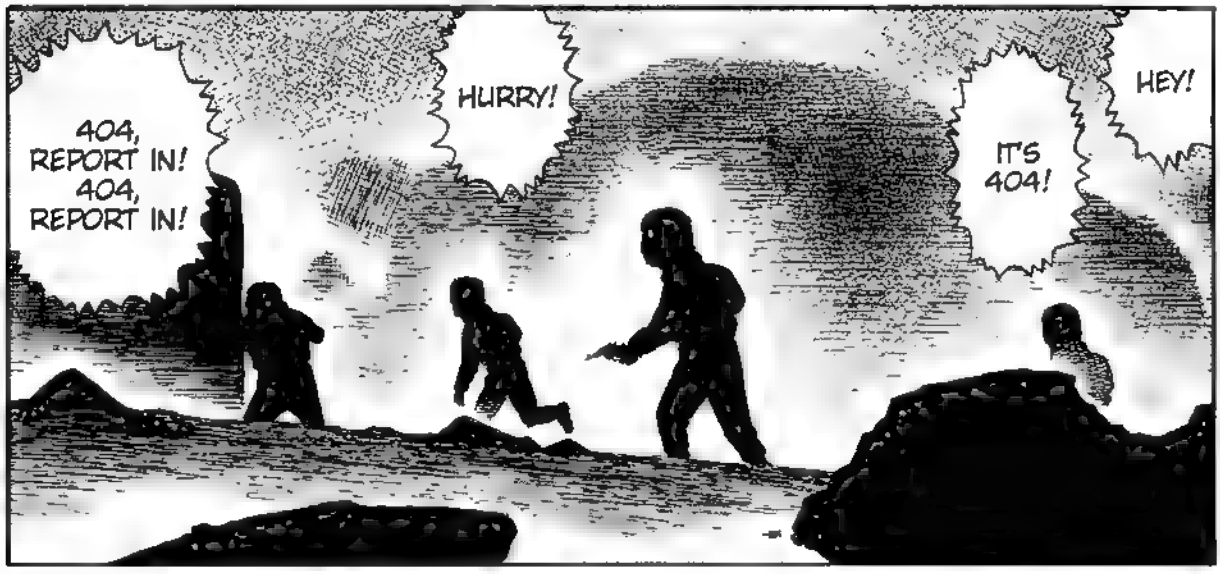

WAAH!

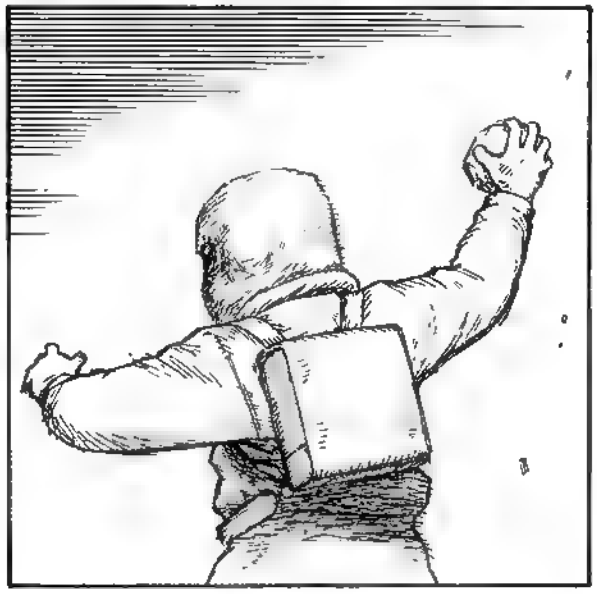

BANG
THUD
AH!

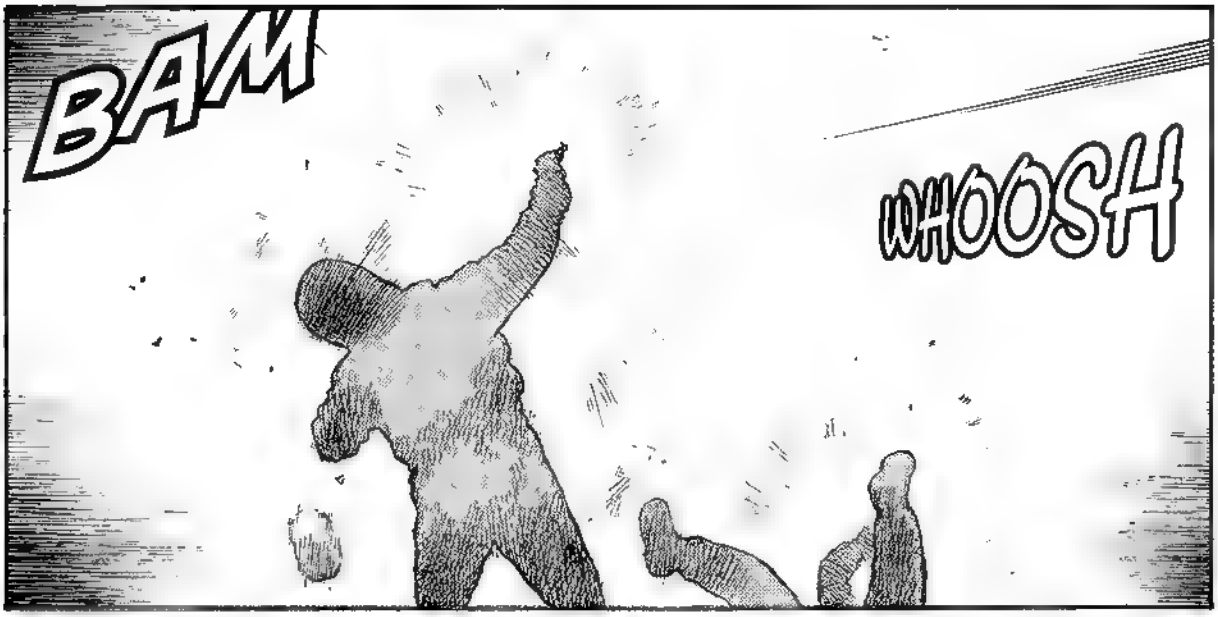

BANG
BANG
BANG

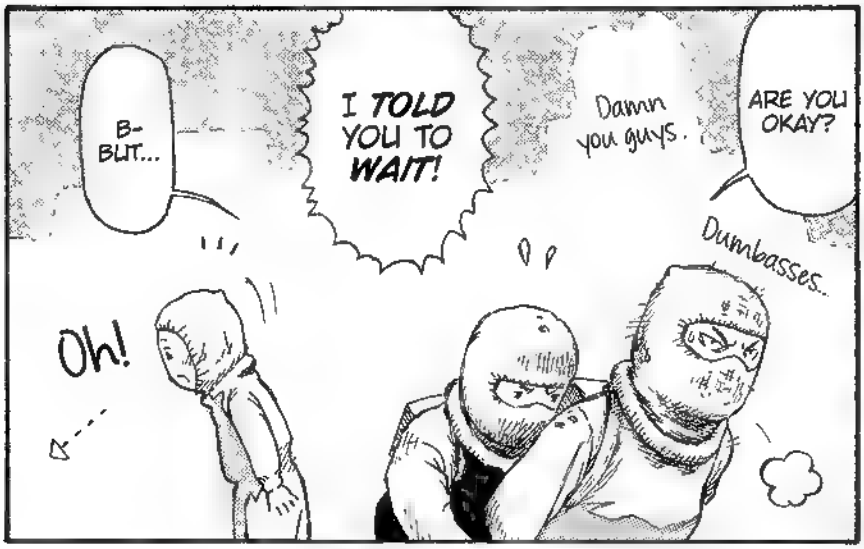
PEW

!

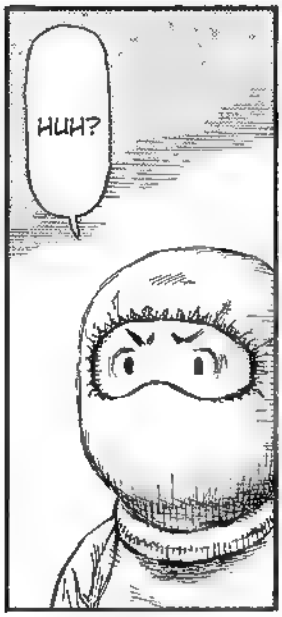

404, REPORT IN! 404, REPORT IN!
HURRY!
IT'S 404!
HEY!



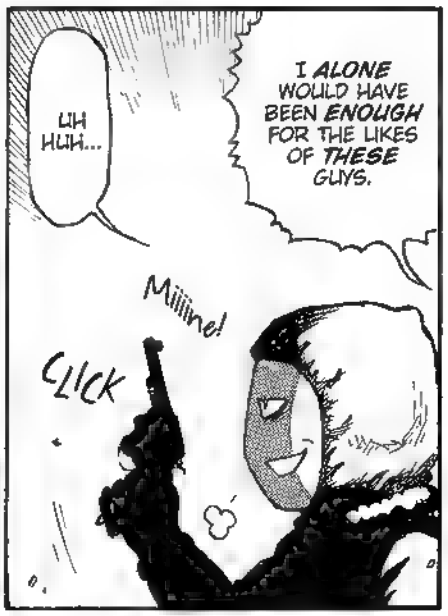

BAM
WHOOSH


B-BUT...
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!
Damn you guys.
ARE YOU OKAY?
Dumbasses.
Oh!

NICE.
THUD

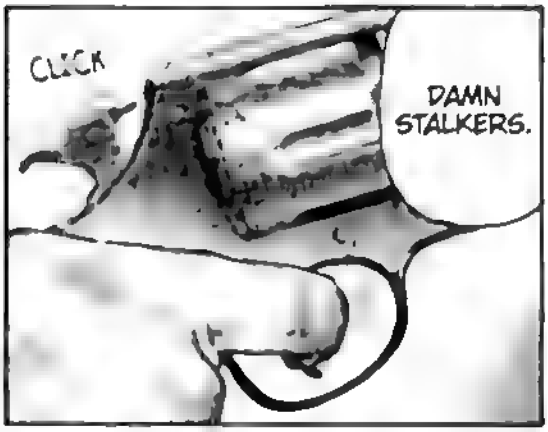

HUH?

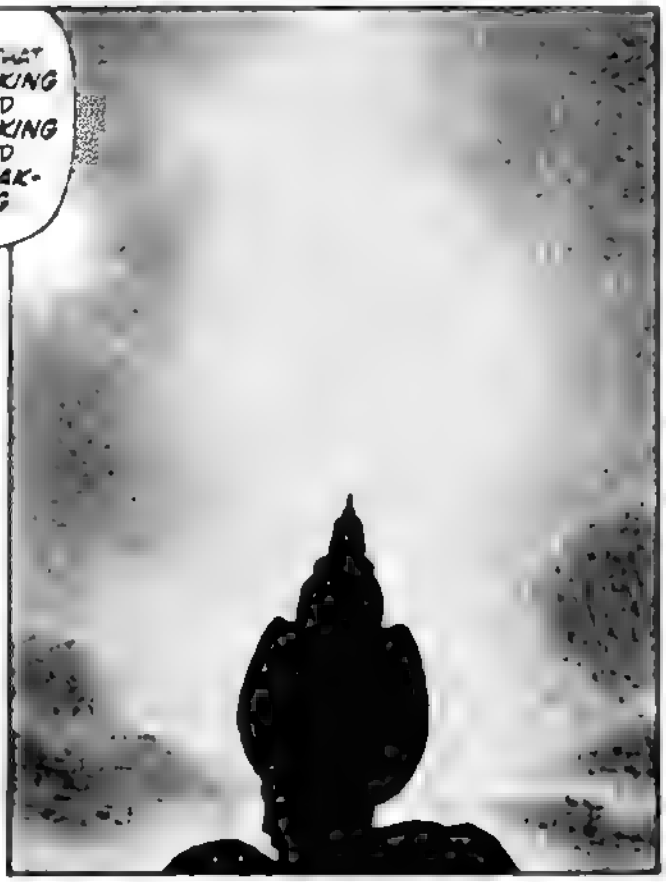
WAIT A SECOND.
LET'S GO! THEY'LL BE COMING!


UH HUH...
I ALONE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR THE LIKES OF THESE GUYS.
Millline!
CLICK

ER-ERM.
WHAT IS IT...

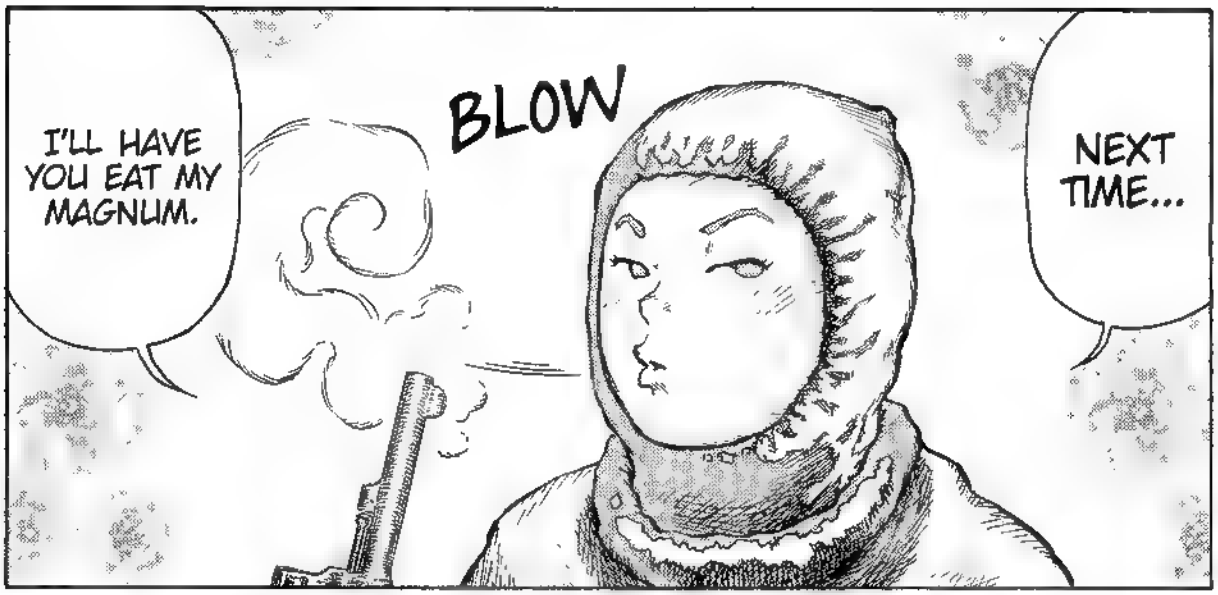
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY CLINGY.
ALL THAT SNEAKING AND SNEAKING AND SNEAK-ING

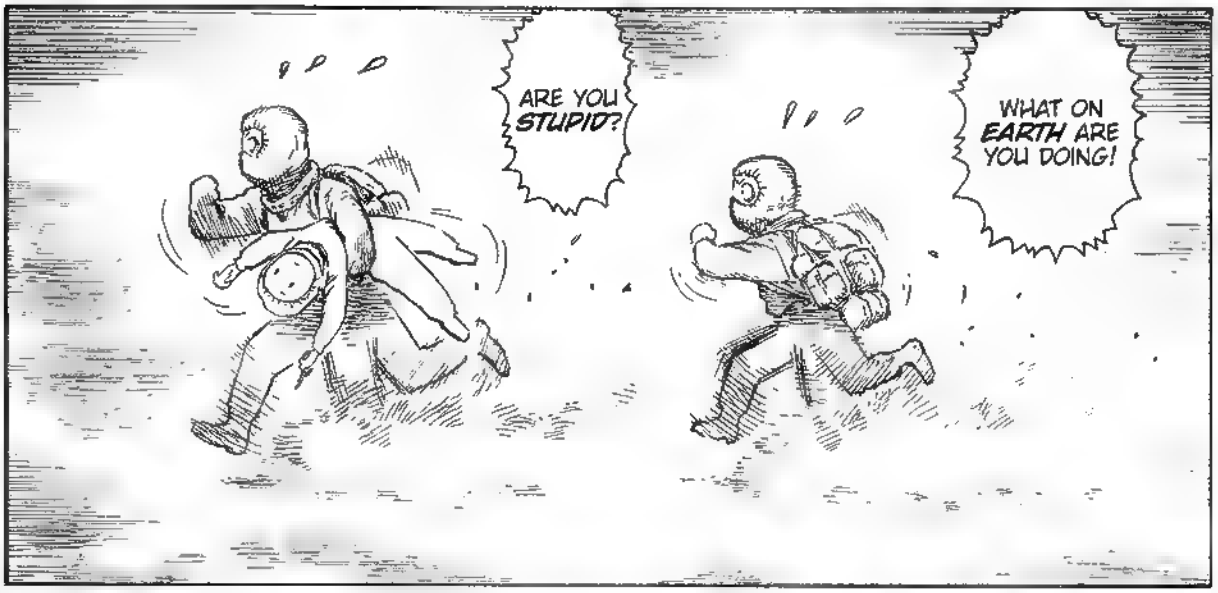

CLICK
DAMN STALKERS.



BANG
SHOCK

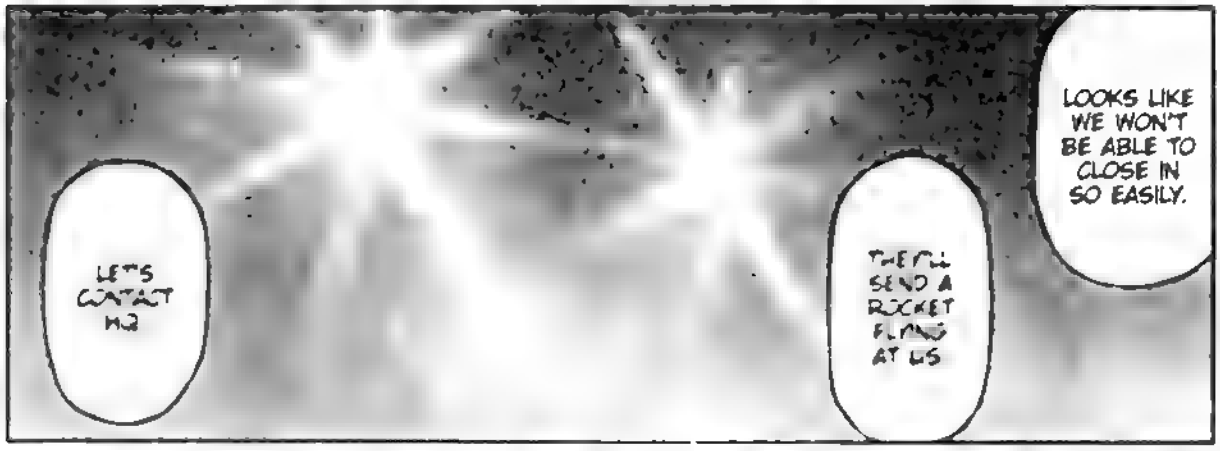
POW

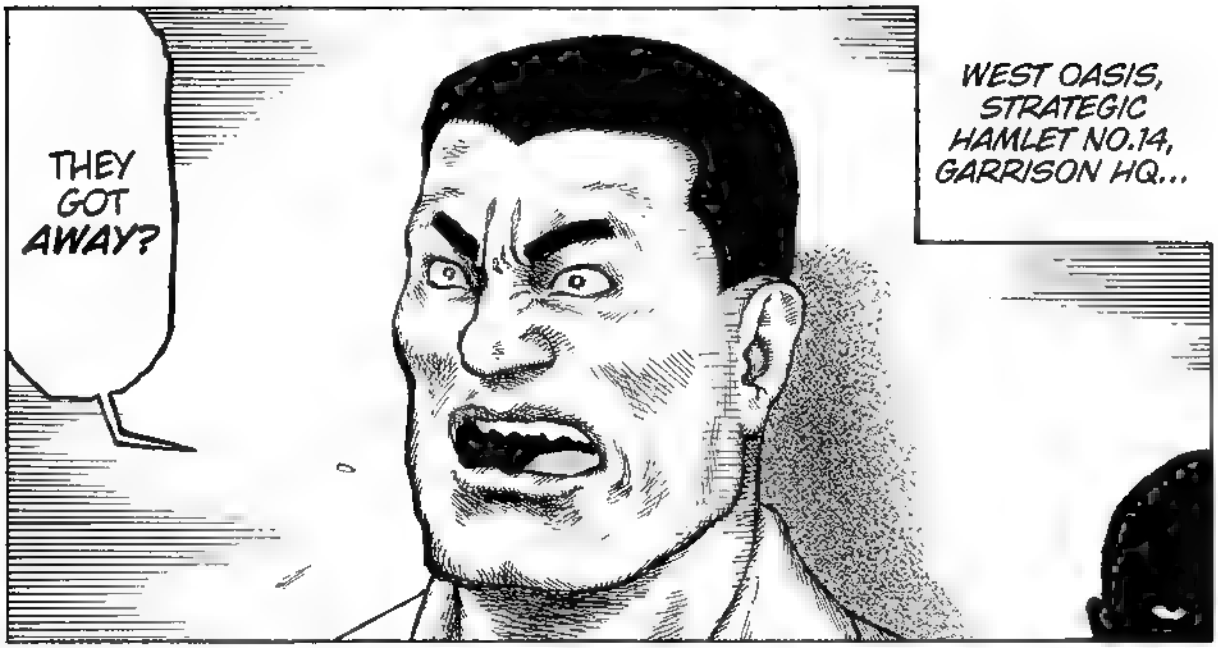

I'LL HAVE YOU EAT MY MAGNUM.
BLOW
NEXT TIME...


ARE YOU STUPID?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING!

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT!
YOU OKAY?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT WAS OVER 300 METERS
ONE SHOT, IN THIS DARKNESS, WITH A GUN THEY JUST PICKED UP.
HOW DID THEY DO THAT?


LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CLOSE IN SO EASILY.
LET'S CONTACT HQ
THEY'LL SEND A ROCKET FLYING AT US


THEY GOT AWAY?
WEST OASIS, STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14, GARRISON HQ...

LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE!
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY CAPTURED ONE PERSON?
WHY?

THEY TRIED TO TRACE THEM, BUT...
WHEN 666 RUSHED OVER, THE PERPETRATORS WERE ALREADY GONE.
WHAT THE FUCK WERE THE OTHERS DOING?
404 AND 405 WERE DONE IN AND SUSTAINED HEAVY INJURIES!

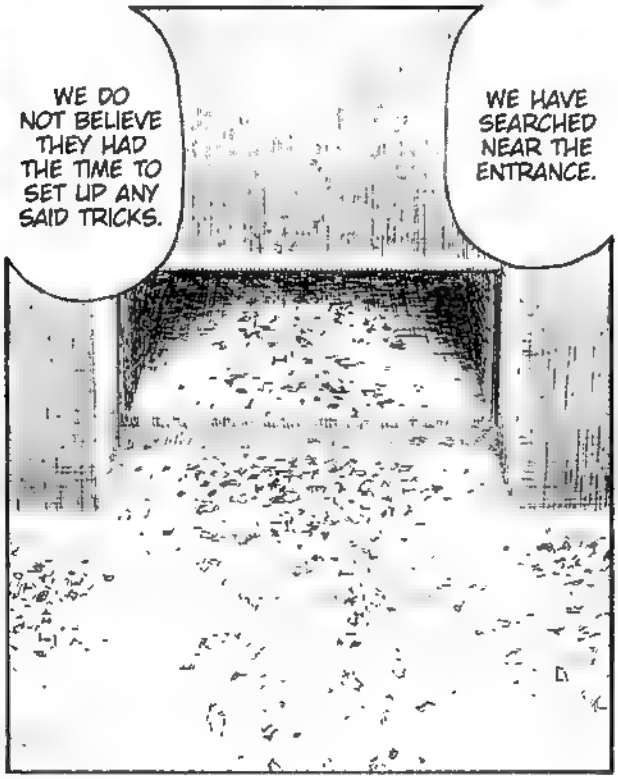
WITH THE GEAR WE HAVE, OUR TROOPS WON'T BE ABLE TO PURSUE FURTHER.

WBBS 4 DANGER DO NOT ENTER

INTO THAT FUCKING HOT AND HUMID HELLHOLE FILLED WITH POISONOUS GAS?

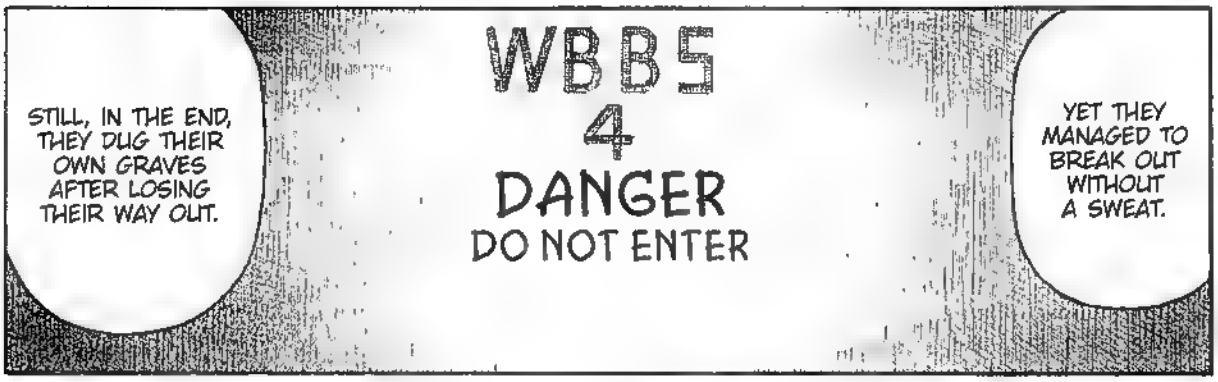
THEY WENT BEYOND THE *BOUND-ARY*?

ANY CHANCE THEY'RE PRETENDING TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT?



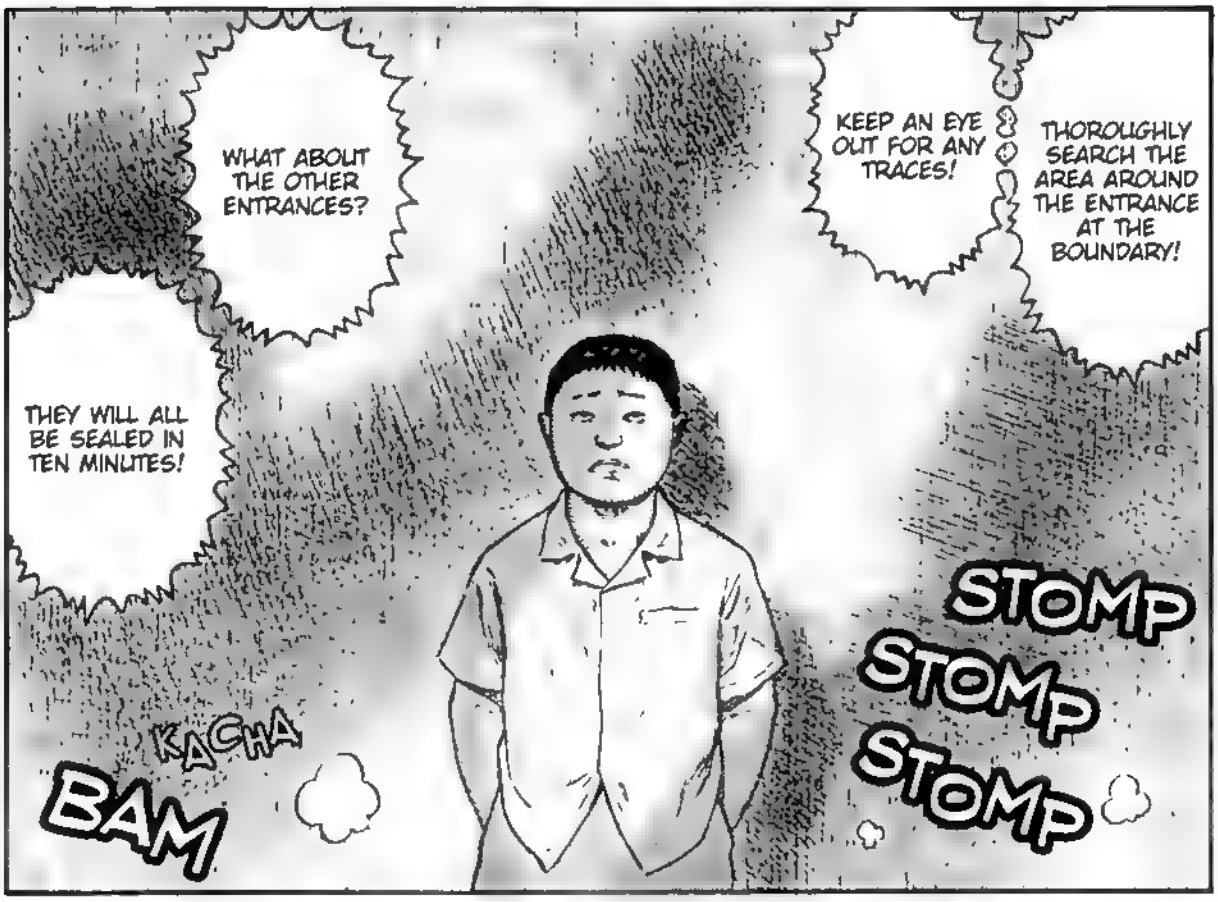
I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST A BUNCH OF BLOCK-HEADS...
...WHO GOT THEMSELVES SURROUNDED SO EASILY.

WHAT ON *EARTH* ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
...SERI-OUSLY.
Security chief

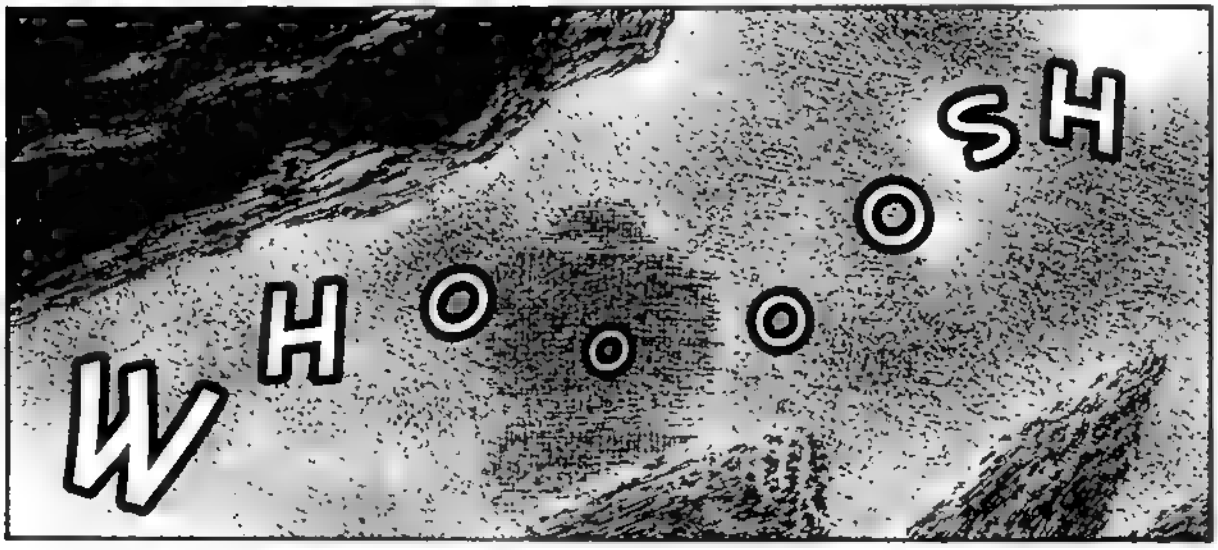

STILL, IN THE END, THEY DUG THEIR OWN GRAVES AFTER LOSING THEIR WAY OUT.
WBB5
4
DANGER
DO NOT ENTER
YET THEY MANAGED TO BREAK OUT WITHOUT A SWEAT.

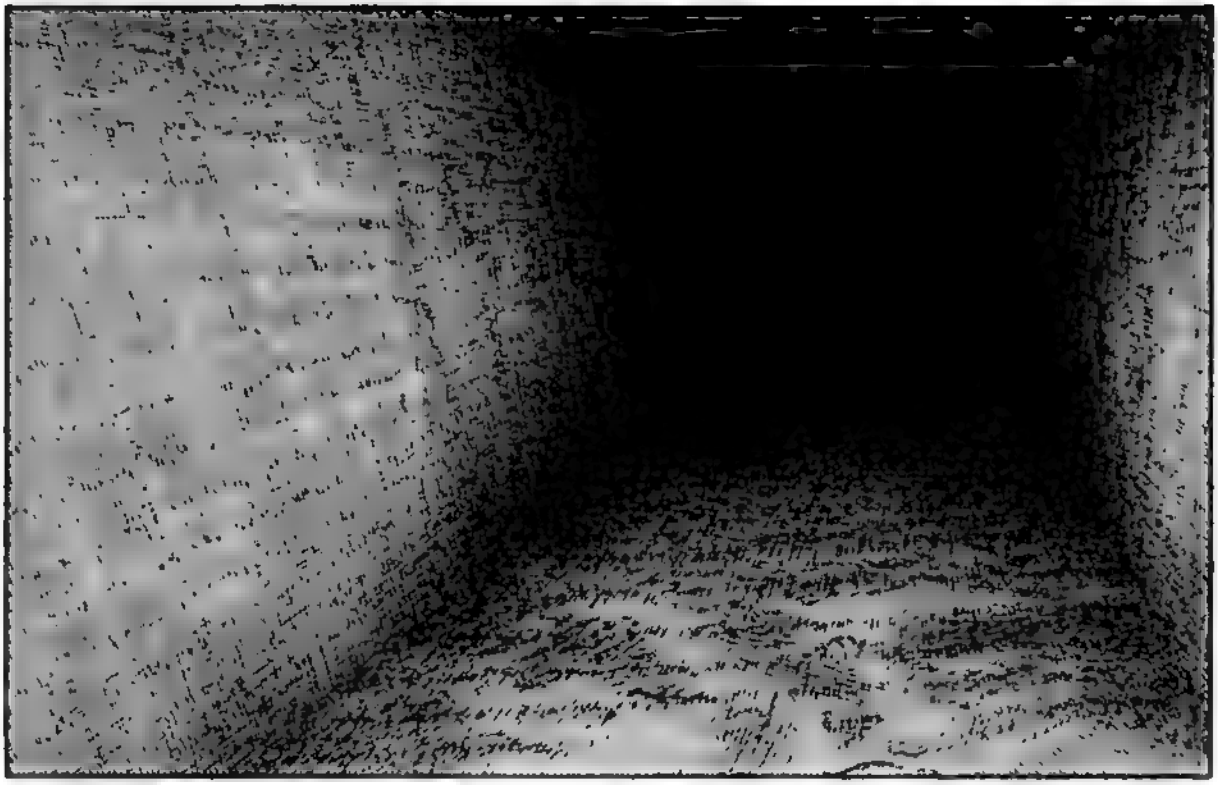
WHA?
SHOCK
NO WAY!
BUT IF THEY *DO* MANAGE TO ESCAPE, THEN I GUESS WE'RE EVEN *WORSE* SHIT-FOR-BRAINS THAN THEY ARE.

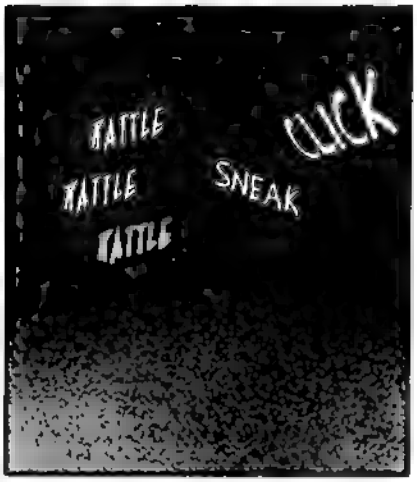
YEAH.
...OH?
THEY CAN FLEX THEIR STRENGTH ALL THEY LIKE, BUT FACT IS, THEY'RE STILL SHIT-FOR-BRAINS.


WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ENTRANCES?
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY TRACES!
THOROUGHLY SEARCH THE AREA AROUND THE ENTRANCE AT THE BOUNDARY!
THEY WILL ALL BE SEALED IN TEN MINUTES!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
KACHA
BAM

DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


SH
O
W
H
O
O




RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
SNEAK
CLICK

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

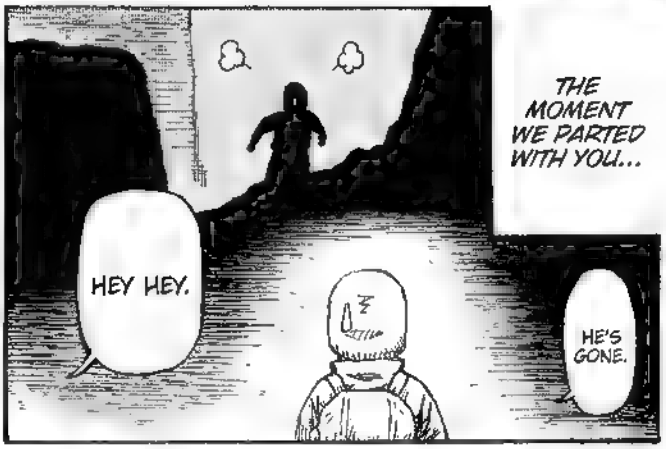
SHUFFLE

GRRR...

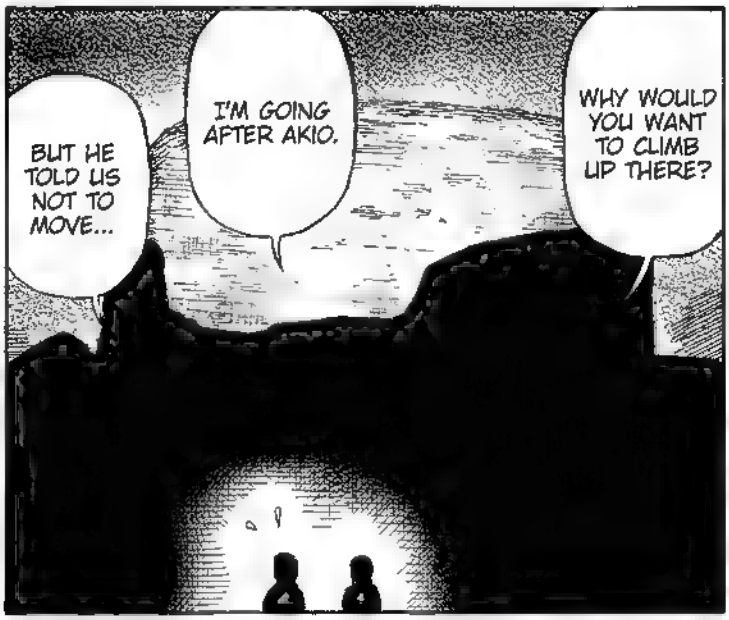
AKIO, YOU WERE SAVED THANKS TO TAIKO.
UGH...

MISS TAIKO HAS PROVEN HERSELF THEN, HASN'T SHE?
AKIO.
HMM-MPH..

I WANT TO GO UP THERE.
?

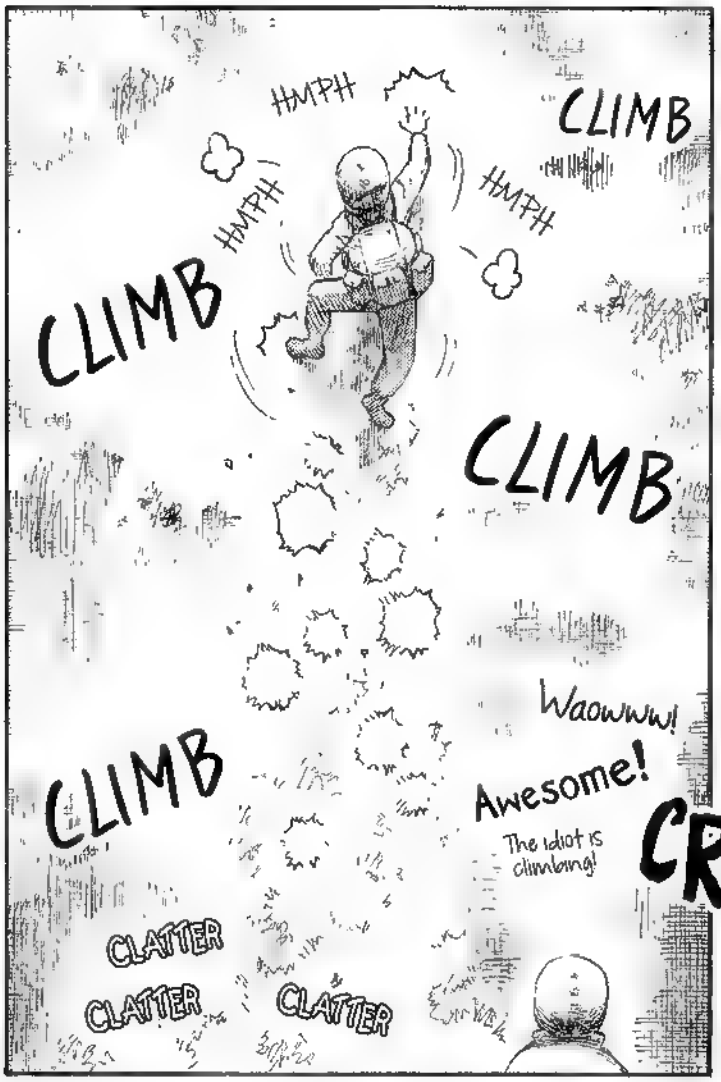

THE MOMENT WE PARTED WITH YOU...
HEY HEY.
HE'S GONE.

I'M GONNA GO!
...OKAY.

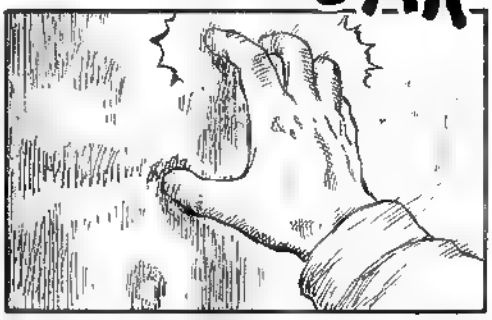

BUT HE TOLD US NOT TO MOVE...
I'M GOING AFTER AKIO.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO CLIMB UP THERE?

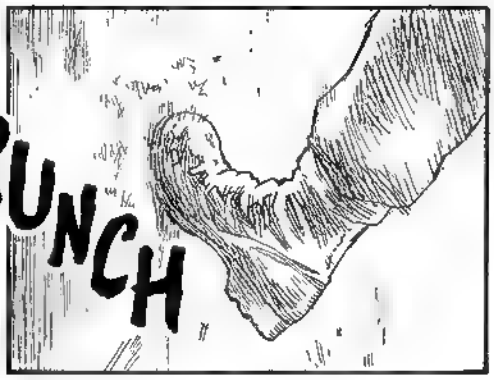
GLARE

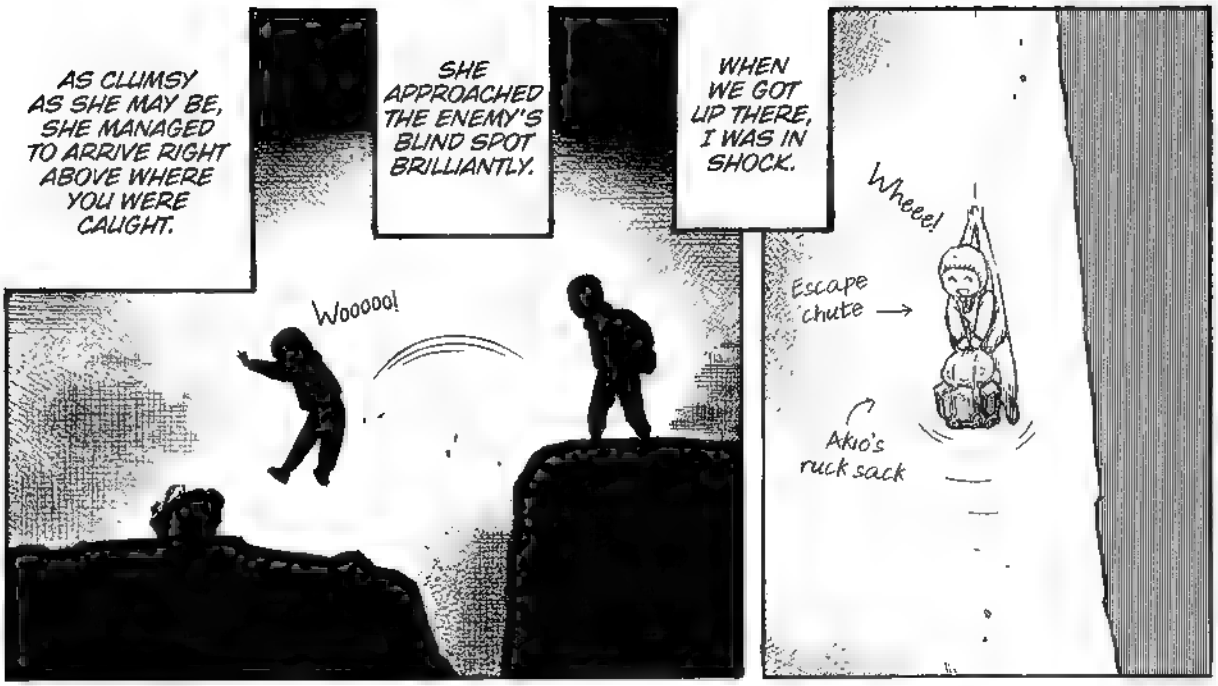
Fuuuuu
Haaaaa


HMPH
CLIMB
HMPH
HMPH
CLIMB
CLIMB
Waowwww!
Awesome!
The idiot is climbing!
CLIMB
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

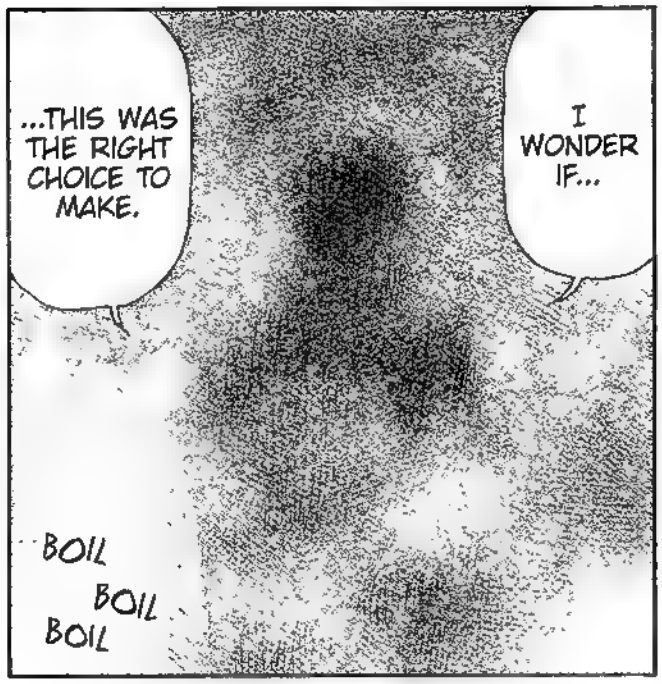
THWAP
GAK

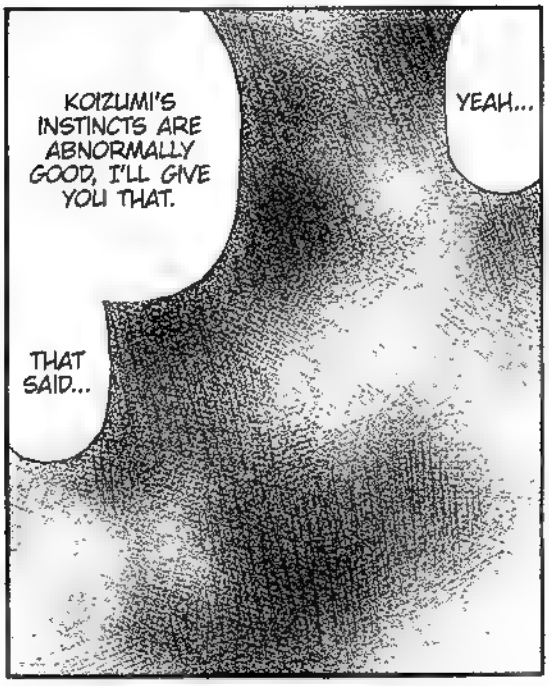



CRUNCH


AS CLUMSY AS SHE MAY BE, SHE MANAGED TO ARRIVE RIGHT ABOVE WHERE YOU WERE CAUGHT.
SHE APPROACHED THE ENEMY'S BLIND SPOT BRILLIANTLY.
WHEN WE GOT UP THERE, I WAS IN SHOCK.
Wooooo!
Wheee!
Escape chute →
Akio's ruck sack

PANT
PANT
IT'S AS IF SHE KNEW EVERYTHING.


...THIS WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE TO MAKE.
I WONDER IF...
BOIL
BOIL
BOIL

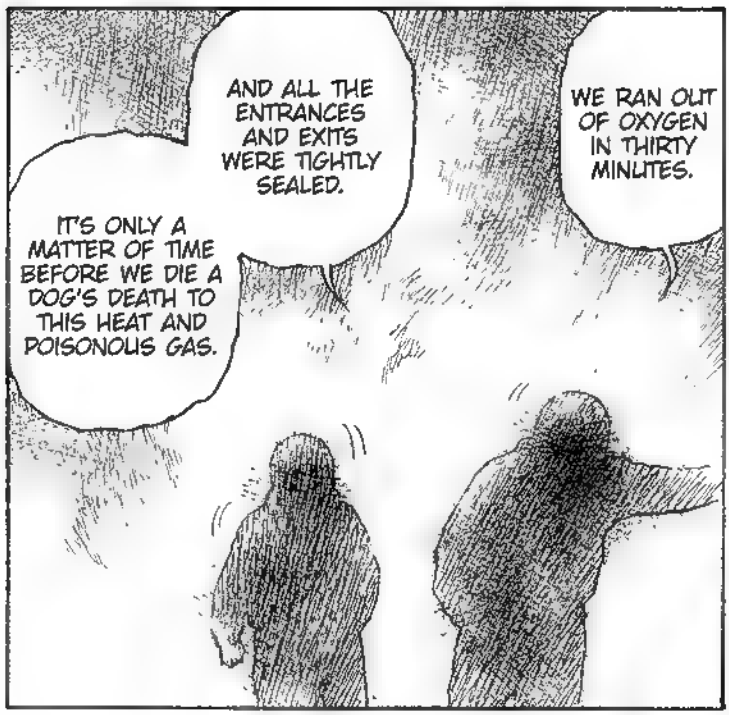

KOIZUMI'S INSTINCTS ARE ABNORMALLY GOOD, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
YEAH...
THAT SAID...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

I HEARD IT WAS A HEAT HELL OUTSIDE THE WALLS, ALL HOT AND HUMID.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE GETTING COOKED IN A
SIZZZZZZ
BOM
BOM
BOM

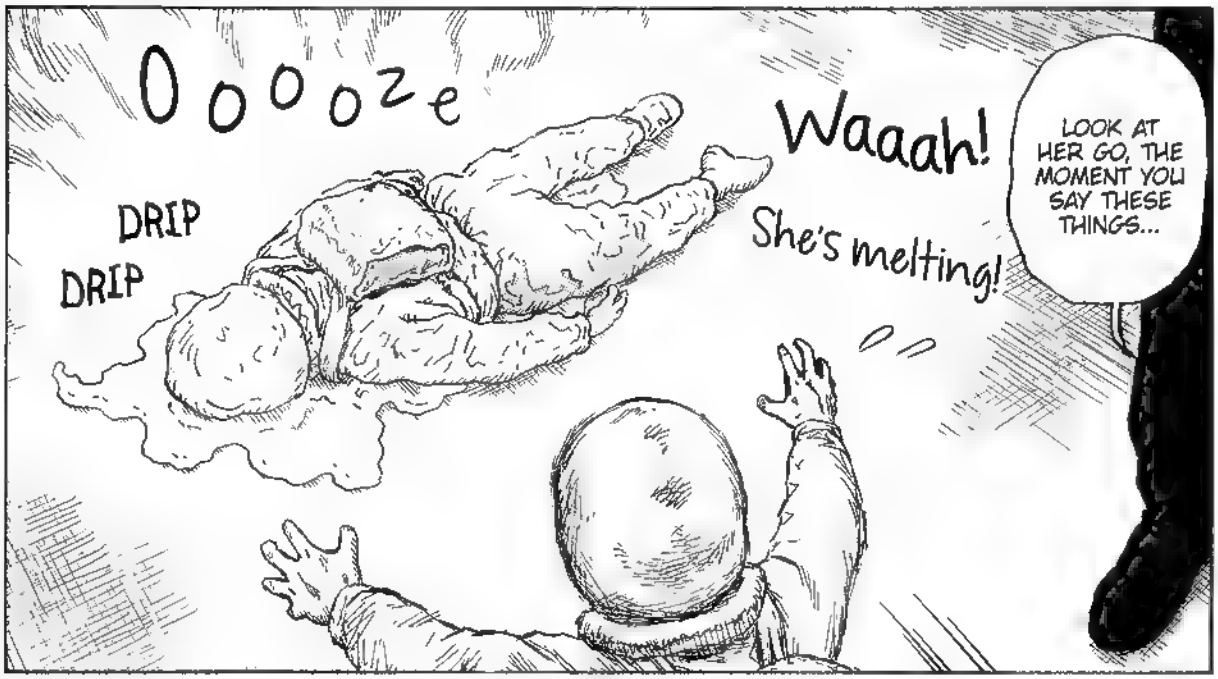
HERE
OPEN THIS

I'D RATHER
THAT WILL GET YOU BURNED THROUGH AND THROUGH, AND YOU'LL DROP DEAD WITHIN HALF A DAY...

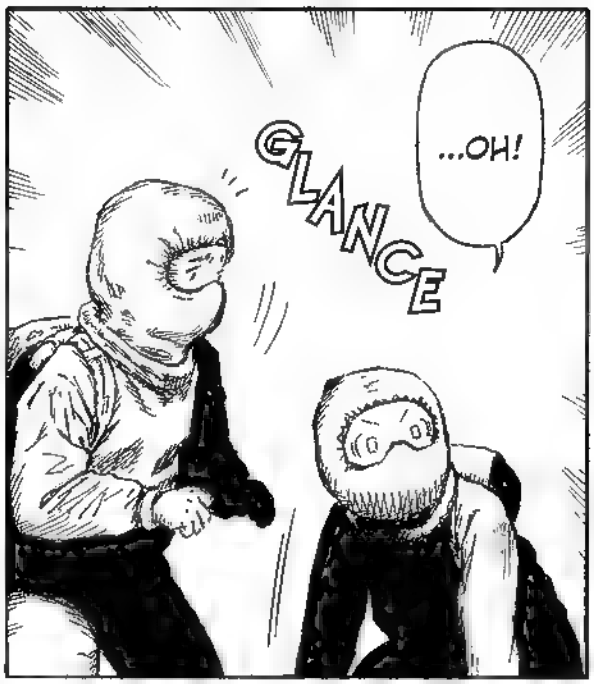

AND ALL THE ENTRANCES AND EXITS WERE TIGHTLY SEALED.
WE RAN OUT OF OXYGEN IN THIRTY MINUTES.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE DIE A DOG'S DEATH TO THIS HEAT AND POISONOUS GAS.

THIS WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE TO MAKE FOR THE SAKE OF ESCAPING.
NO DOUBT THE LIGHTLY EQUIPPED SECURITY POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US OUTSIDE THE WALLS THAT EASILY.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
OR SO I THOUGHT...

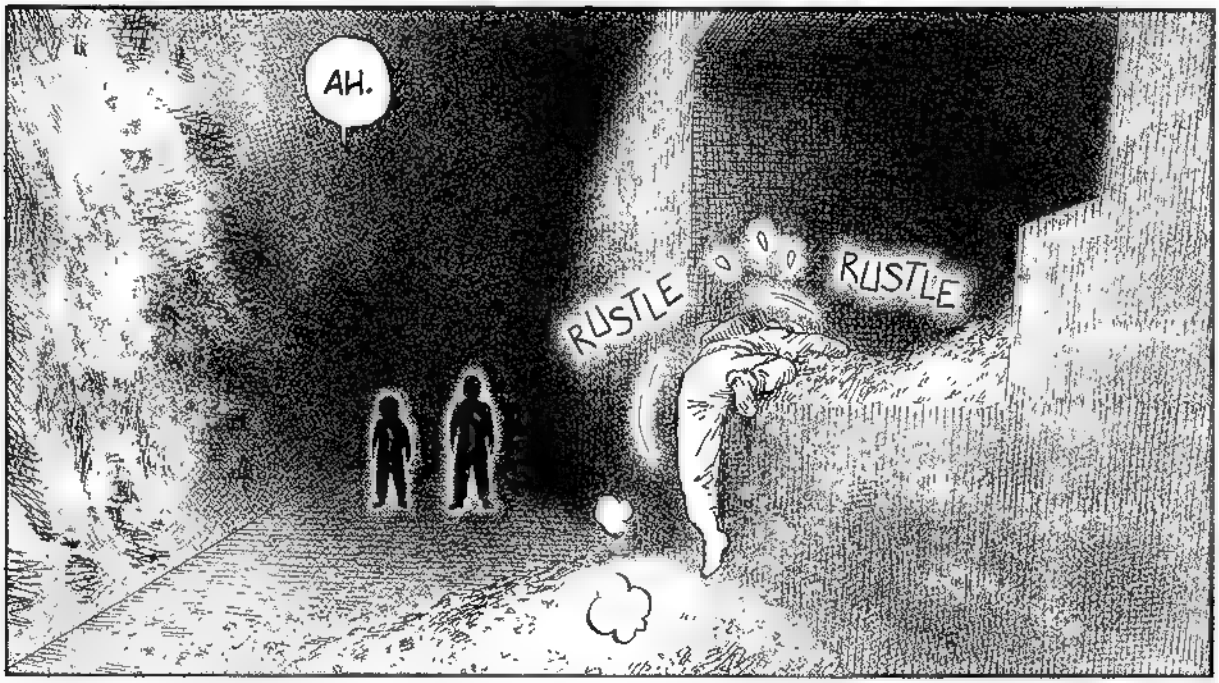
In that case, getting caught would be...
PANT PANT
THAT MEANS, WHATEVER WE CHOOSE...
WE'LL EITHER GET CAUGHT OR DIE...

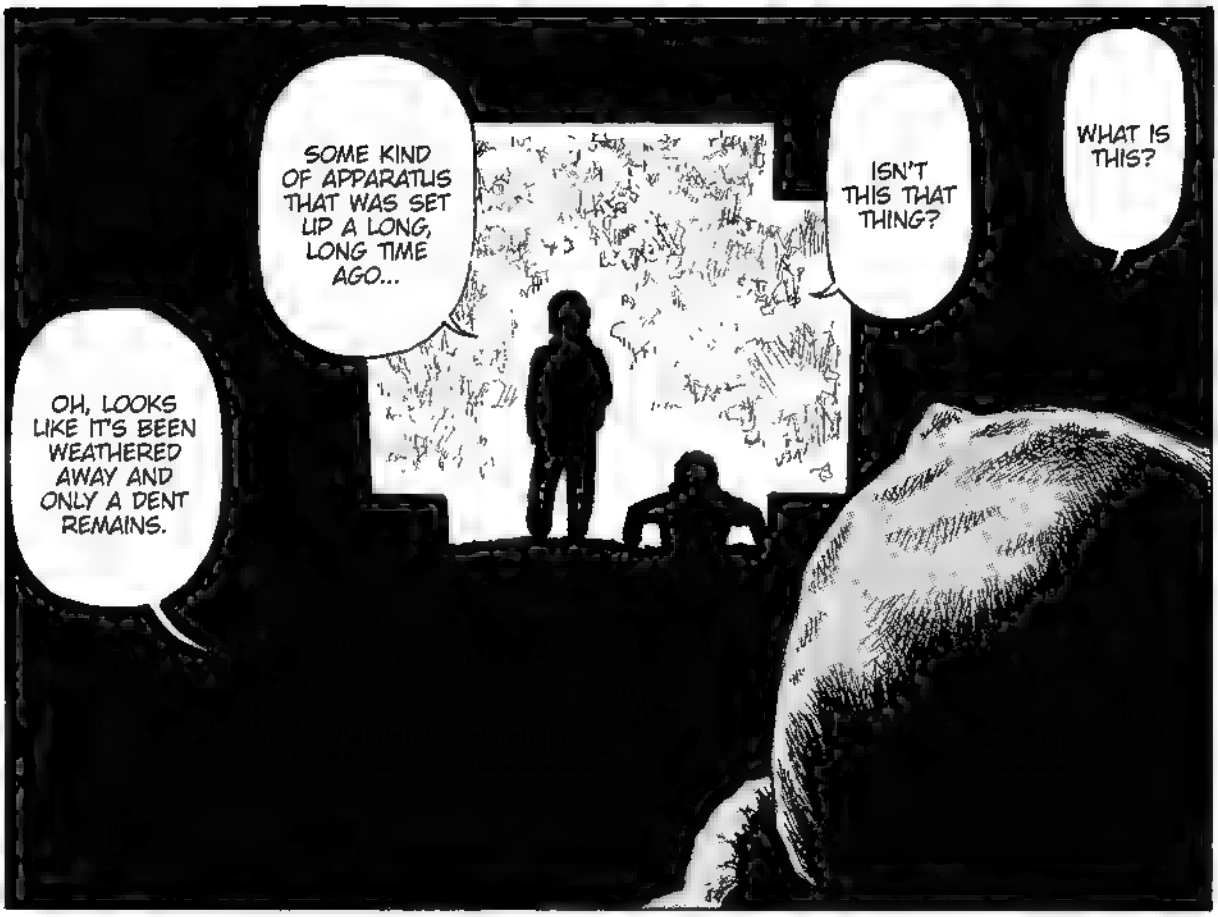

Oooozze
DRIP
DRIP
Waaah!
She's melting!
LOOK AT HER GO, THE MOMENT YOU SAY THESE THINGS...

SWOOSH
TH-THERE IT IS...


GLANCE
...OH!

YOU'RE BEING CREEPY.
WH-WHAT IS IT?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
IT'S HEEERE...

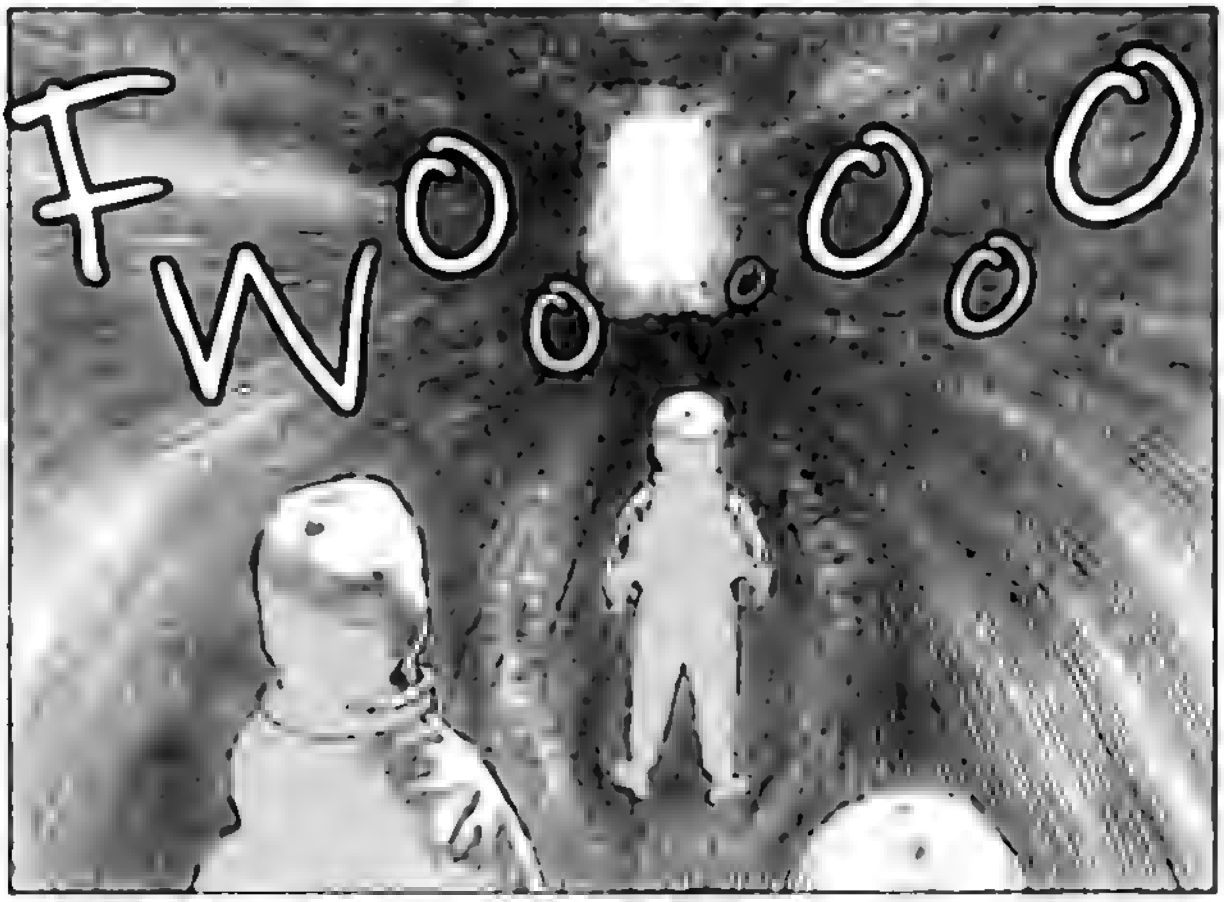

AH.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


WHAT IS THIS?
ISN'T THIS THAT THING?
SOME KIND OF APPARATUS THAT WAS SET UP A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...
OH, LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN WEATHERED AWAY AND ONLY A DENT REMAINS.

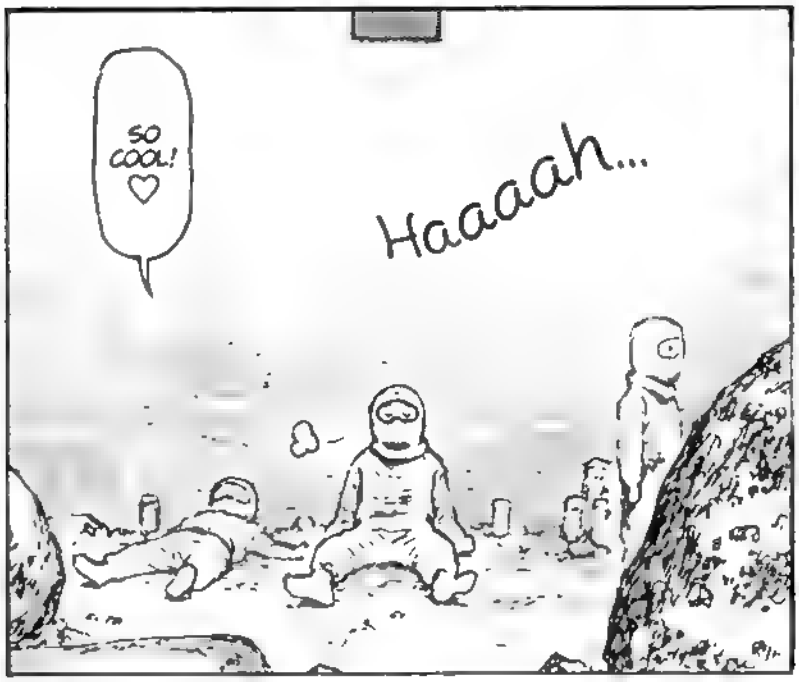
IT'S PROBABLY TURNED INTO THIS SAND.
CLICK-CLACK
CREAK
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF ACID GAS HERE.

The wind is strong.

WHOOSH
Wah!


FWOOOO

SOME HOT GAS WAS POURING IN FROM BEYOND THE BOUNDARY.
!
There's a hole in the wall!
WHEN I WAS CLIMBING UP THE RUBBLE...
I SAW
?


SO COOL! ♡
Haaaah...

WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE!

AND SO, WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE SECURITY POLICE PURSUING US.
SVAK
SVAK
Now is a good time!
When they're all focused on the entrance to the boundary, we'll use this opportunity

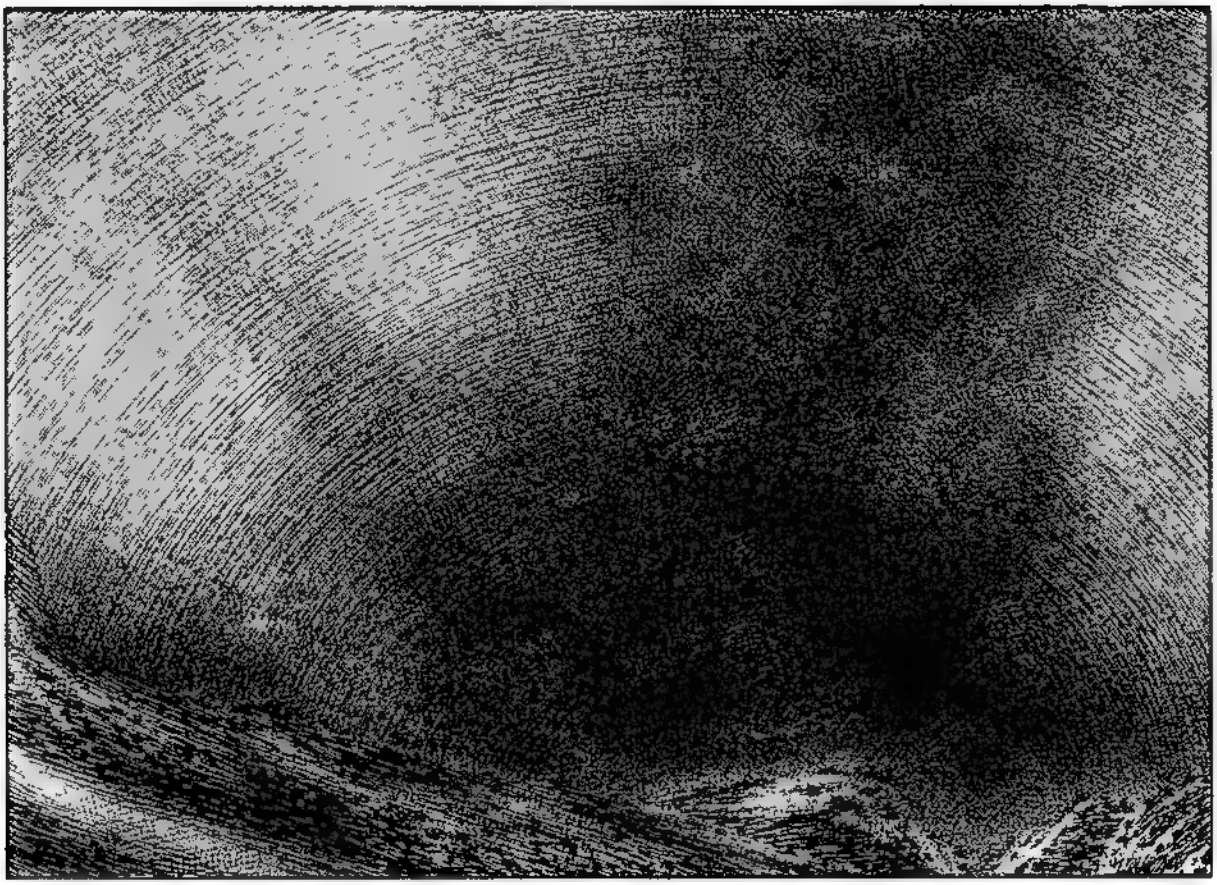
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, AKIO NEVER QUESTIONED TAIKO'S INSTINCT EVER AGAIN.

西オアシス
第14戦略村
守備隊司令部

SIX HOURS LATER...

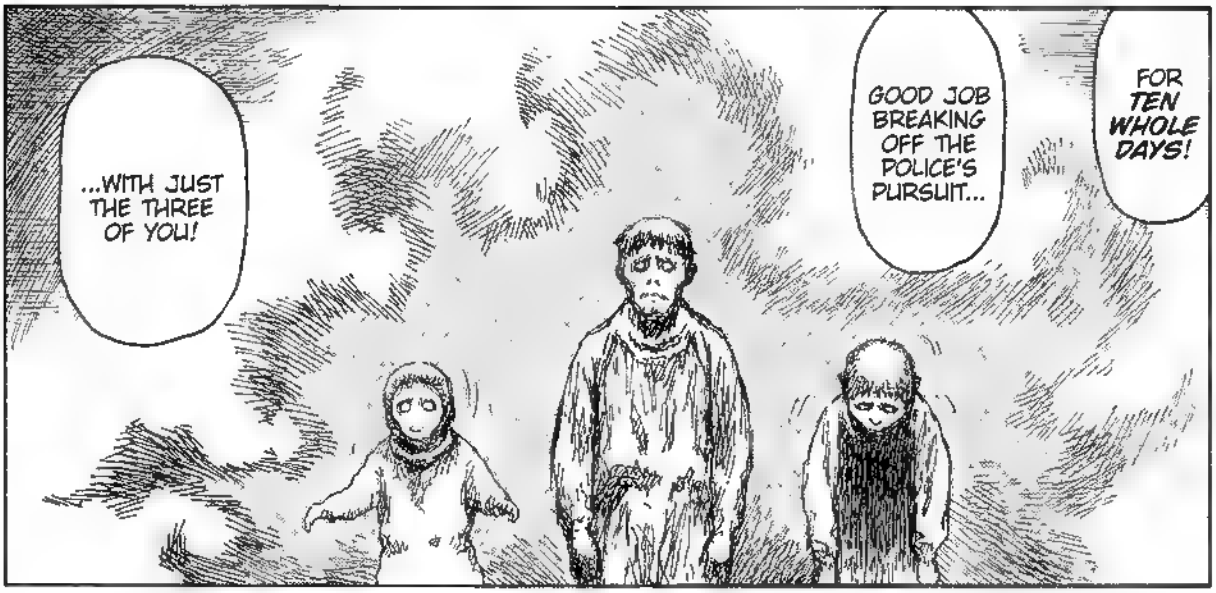
SIGN: WEST OASIS STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14 GARRISON HEADQUARTERS

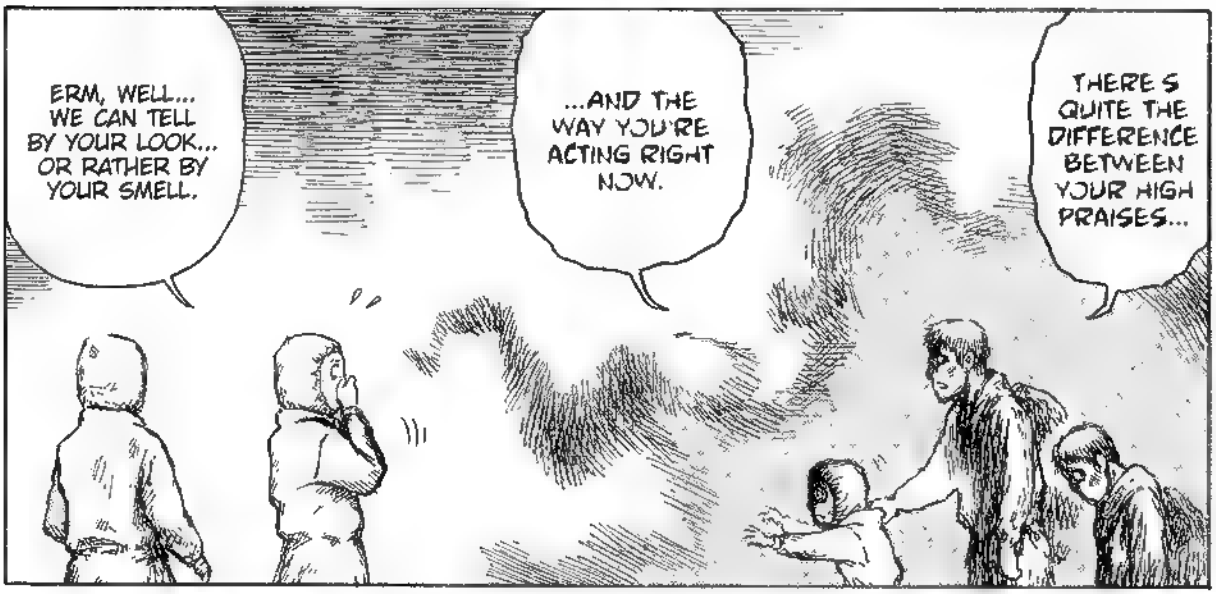
VOL. III

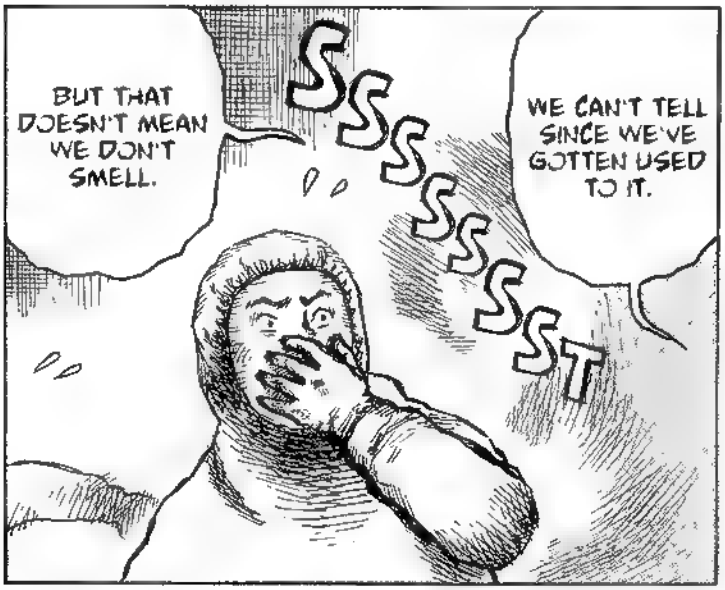


YOU GUYS...
OOH.

...THAT YOU'RE SAFE!
GLAD TO SEE...


...WITH JUST THE THREE OF YOU!
GOOD JOB BREAKING OFF THE POLICE'S PURSUIT...
FOR TEN WHOLE DAYS!

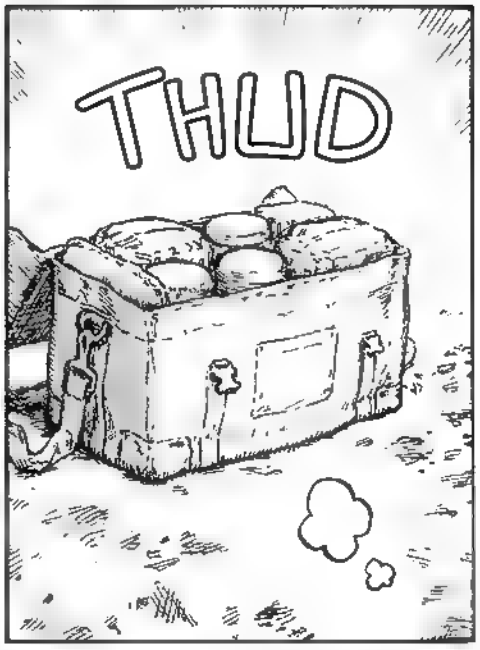

ERM, WELL... WE CAN TELL BY YOUR LOOK... OR RATHER BY YOUR SMELL.
...AND THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING RIGHT NOW.
THERE'S QUITE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR HIGH PRAISES...

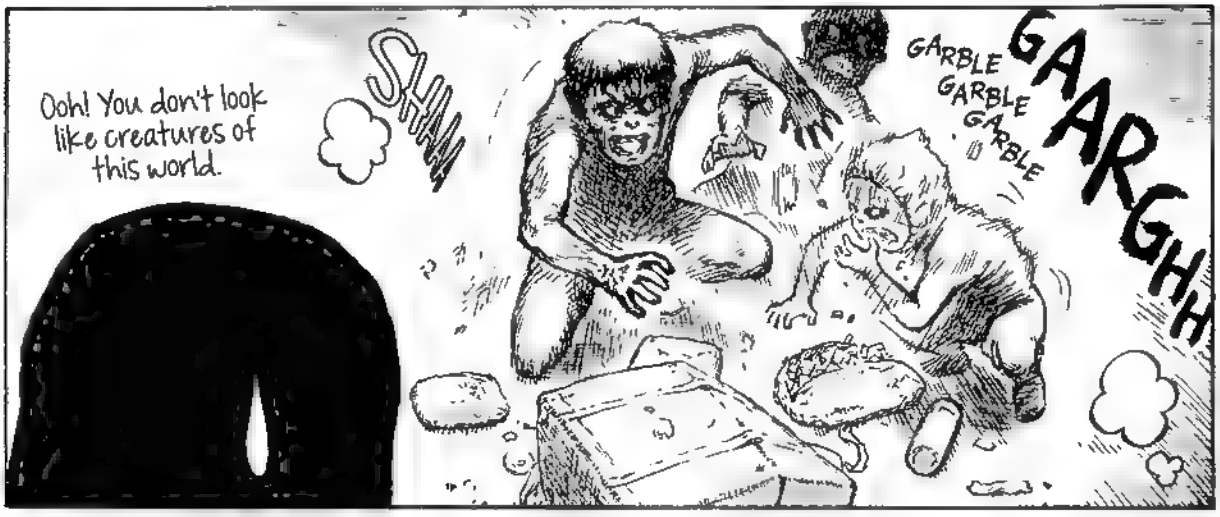

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T SMELL.
SSSSSSSSST
WE CAN'T TELL SINCE WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.

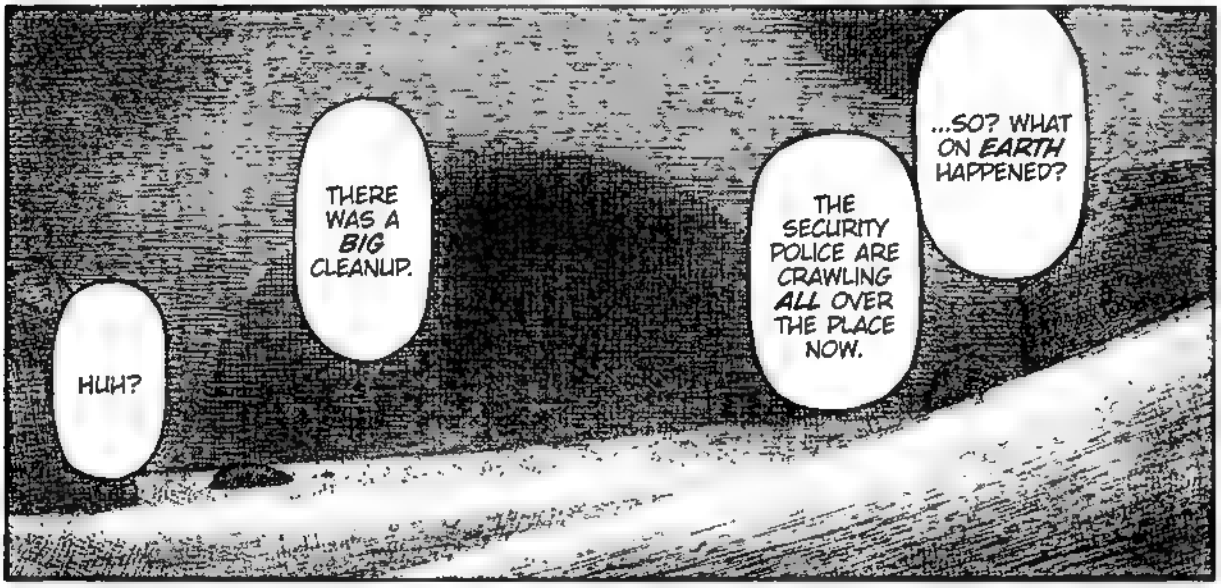
RIGHT OF COURSE, WE SMELL!
AHH... SMELL, EH?

WE EVEN GAVE THAT WATER A GOOD SIP.
WE WERE DESPERATELY CRAWLING AROUND IN SEWAGE WATER.
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLASH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
Ouegh...

WE WERE ABLE TO RIDE TO HELL AND BACK TWICE OVER, SO THIS WAS NOTHING TO US!
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL THOUGH.
Ouegh...
SPLASH
SPLASH
NORMALLY YOU'D CALL FOR HELP OVER THE WIRELESS.

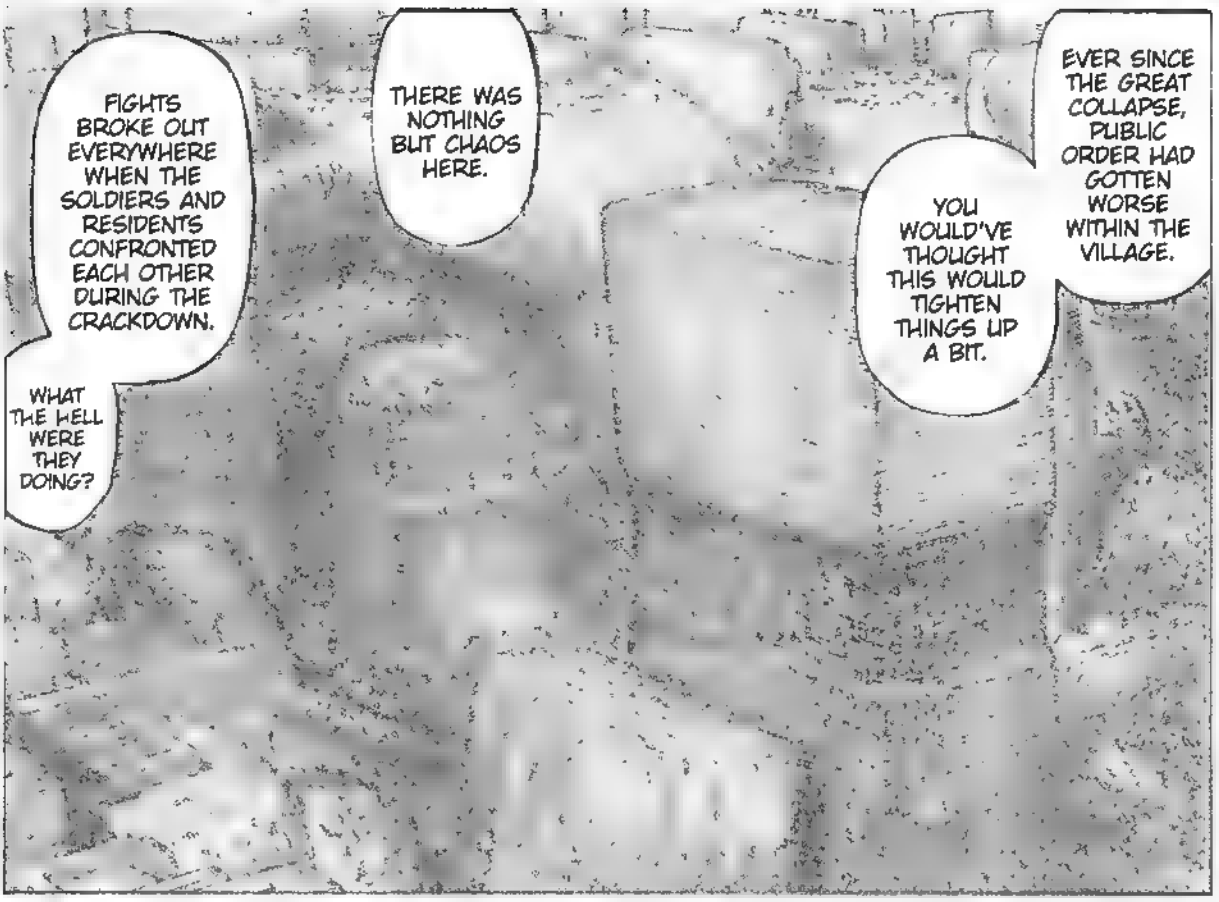

THUD

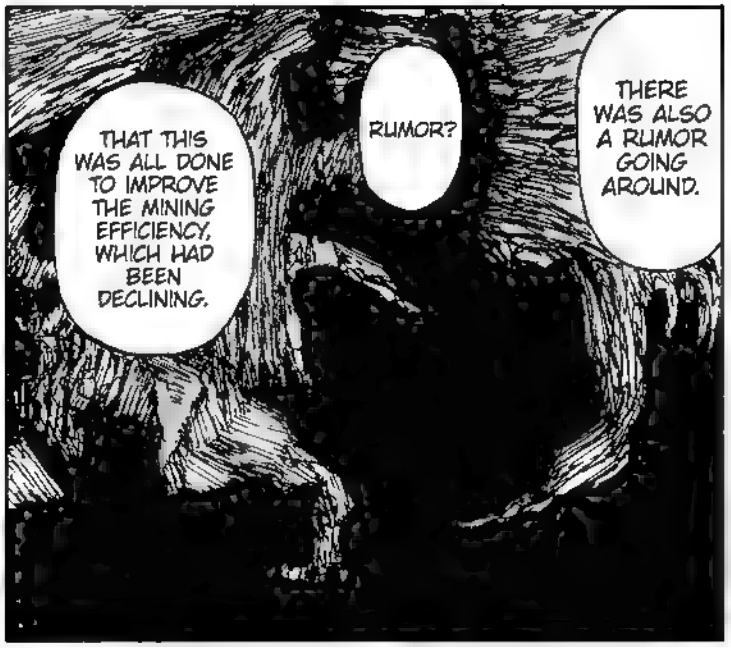

Ooh! You don't look like creatures of this world.
SHAM
GARBLE GARBLE GARBLE
GAARGHH


HUH?
THERE WAS A BIG CLEANUP.
THE SECURITY POLICE ARE CRAWLING ALL OVER THE PLACE NOW.
...SO? WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

ASSAULT, THEFT, FRAUD.
HOWEVER MINOR THE CRIME, THERE WAS NO ESCAPING IT.
CRACK-DOWN?
OF WHAT?
THE POLICE AND ARMY STARTED A CRACKDOWN IN THE VILLAGE.

WHACK
BANG
THUMP
KLANG
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK


FIGHTS BROKE OUT EVERYWHERE WHEN THE SOLDIERS AND RESIDENTS CONFRONTED EACH OTHER DURING THE CRACKDOWN.
WHAT THE HELL WERE THEY DOING?
THERE WAS NOTHING BUT CHAOS HERE.
YOU WOULD'VE THOUGHT THIS WOULD TIGHTEN THINGS UP A BIT.
EVER SINCE THE GREAT COLLAPSE, PUBLIC ORDER HAD GOTTEN WORSE WITHIN THE VILLAGE.


THAT THIS WAS ALL DONE TO IMPROVE THE MINING EFFICIENCY, WHICH HAD BEEN DECLINING.
RUMOR?
THERE WAS ALSO A RUMOR GOING AROUND.

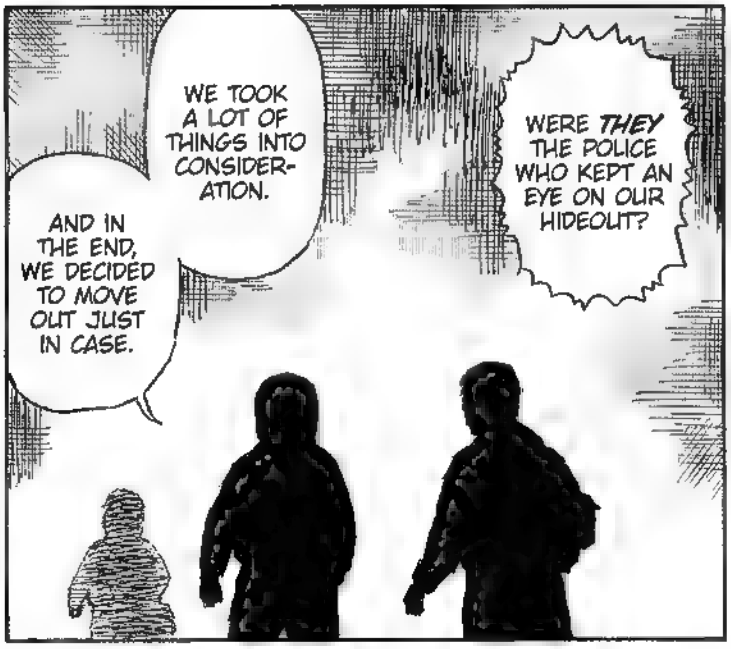
THEY PROBABLY HAD A BUNCH OF STRESS BUILT UP BECAUSE YOU BEAT THEM UP SO BADLY.
IT SEEMS THE SOLDIERS TREATED THEM HORRIBLY.
HMPH

...AND FORCED TO PERFORM HEAVY SLAVE-LIKE LABOR.
THE MINERS WOULD PROBABLY BE PLACED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ARMY.

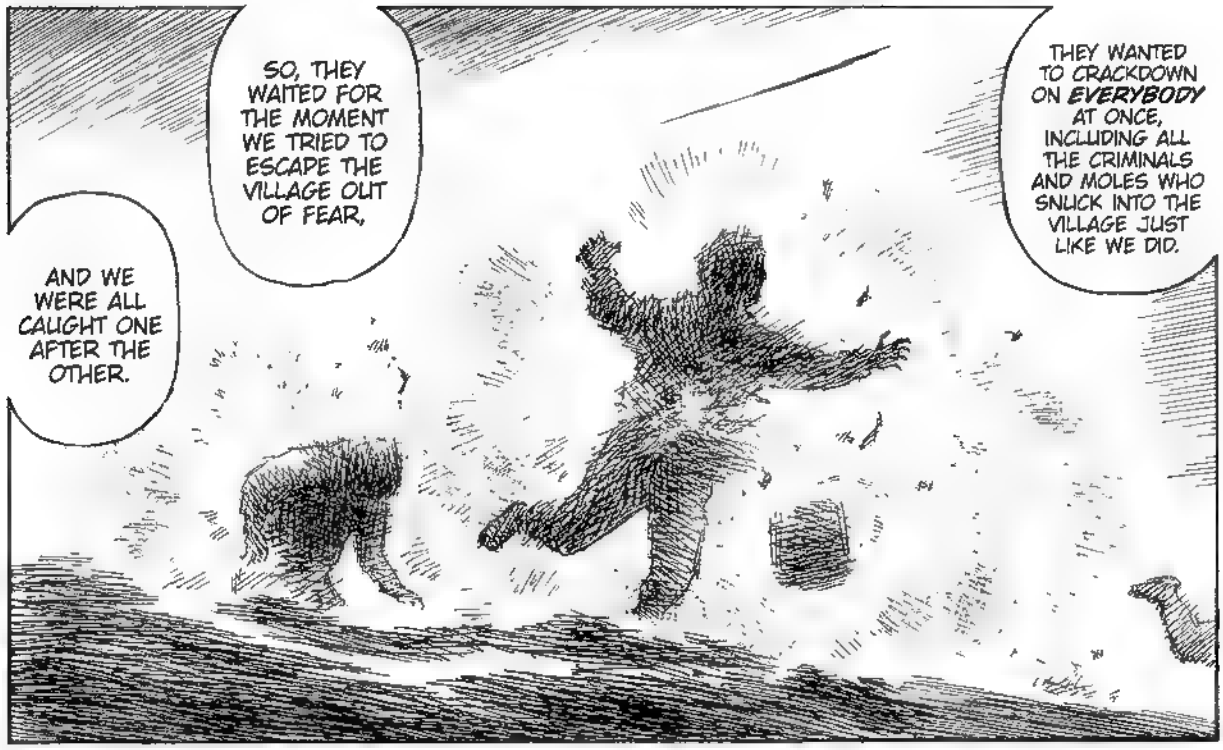
...WHEN SOME WEIRDOS STARTED PROWLING AROUND IN THE VILLAGE.
IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME...
Weirdos

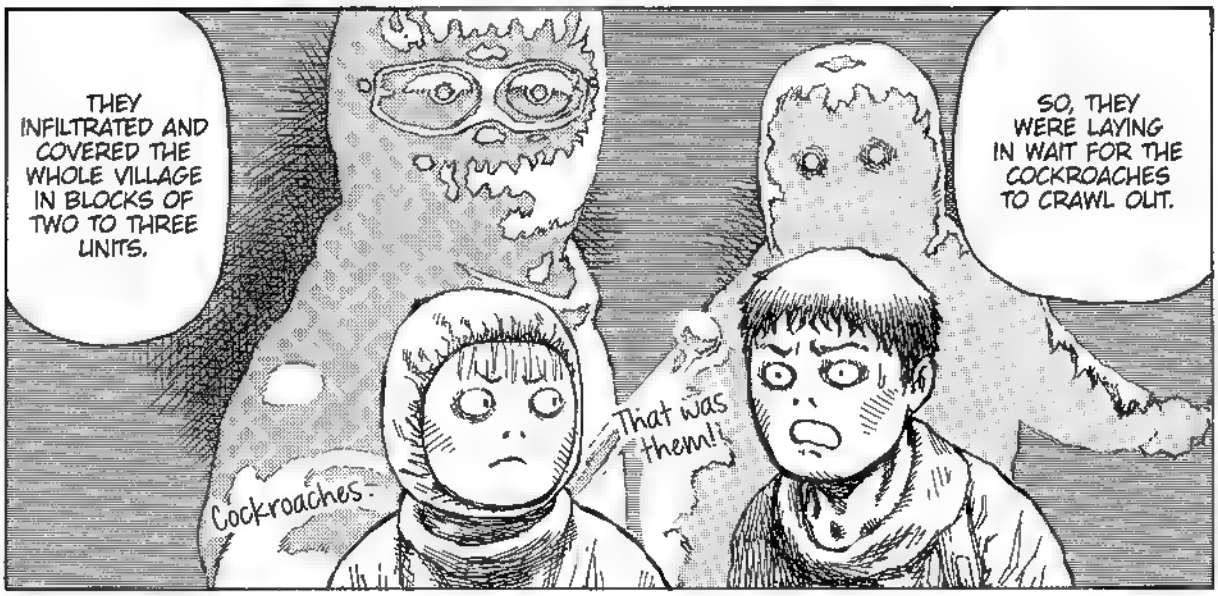
IT WAS ONLY A RUMOR.
NO SHIT THEY'LL KICK UP A RACKET.

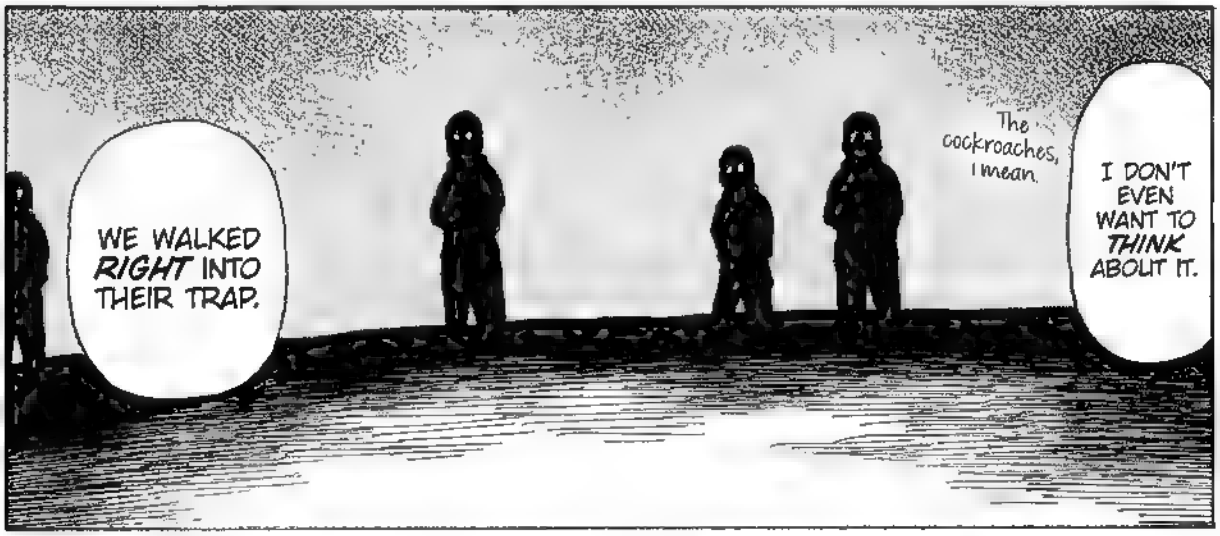
THAT WE ACTUALLY HAD BEEN SMOKED OUT.
BUT IT SEEMED...

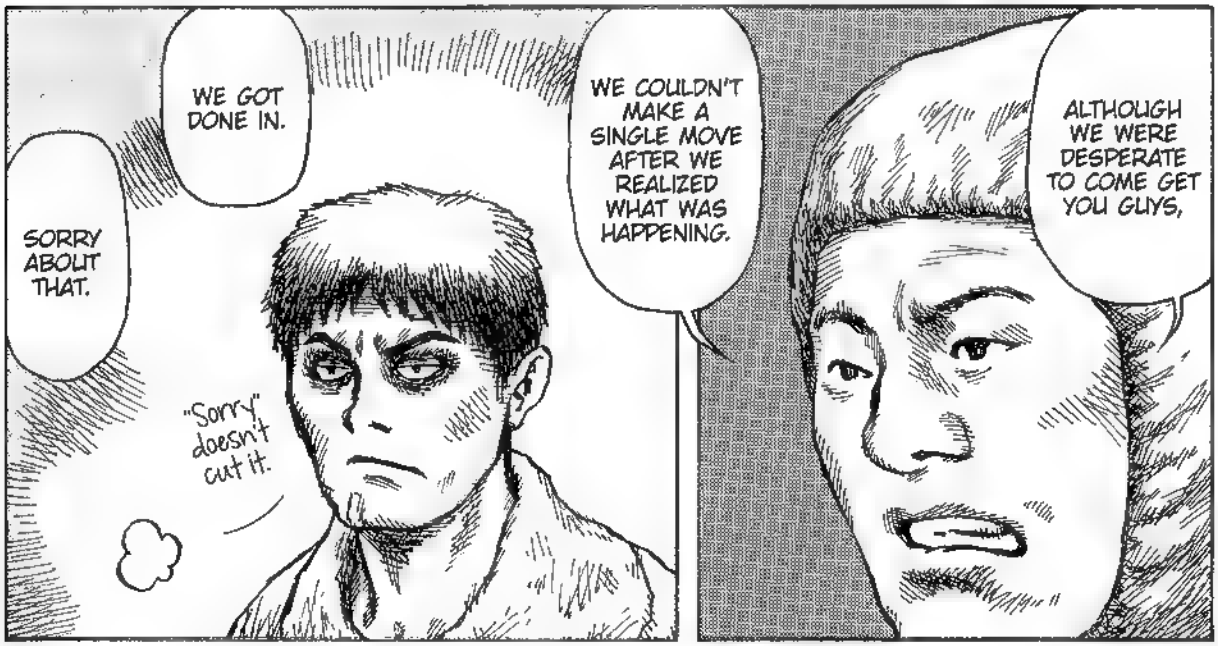

WE TOOK A LOT OF THINGS INTO CONSIDERATION.
AND IN THE END, WE DECIDED TO MOVE OUT JUST IN CASE.
WERE THEY THE POLICE WHO KEPT AN EYE ON OUR HIDEOUT?

?

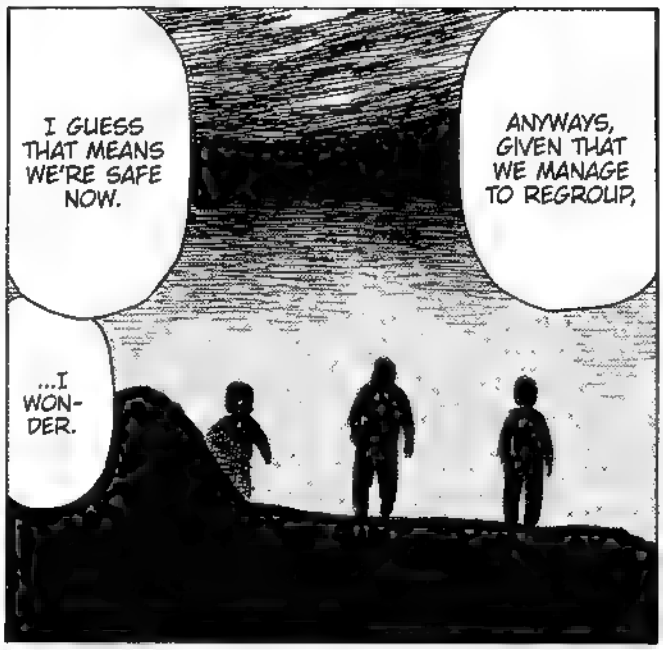

SO, THEY WAITED FOR THE MOMENT WE TRIED TO ESCAPE THE VILLAGE OUT OF FEAR,
THEY WANTED TO CRACKDOWN ON EVERYBODY AT ONCE, INCLUDING ALL THE CRIMINALS AND MOLES WHO SNUCK INTO THE VILLAGE JUST LIKE WE DID.
AND WE WERE ALL CAUGHT ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

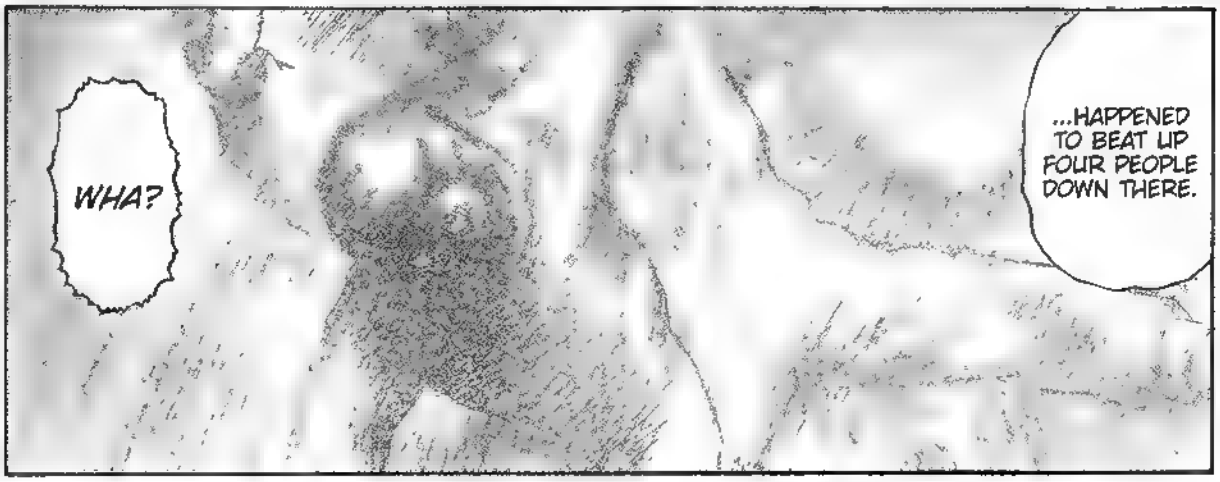

THEY INFILTRATED AND COVERED THE WHOLE VILLAGE IN BLOCKS OF TWO TO THREE UNITS.
SO, THEY WERE LAYING IN WAIT FOR THE COCKROACHES TO CRAWL OUT.
Cockroaches-
That was them!


WE WALKED *RIGHT* INTO THEIR TRAP.
The cockroaches, I mean.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO *THINK* ABOUT IT.


WE GOT DONE IN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
"Sorry" doesn't cut it.
WE COULDN'T MAKE A SINGLE MOVE AFTER WE REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
ALTHOUGH WE WERE DESPERATE TO COME GET YOU GUYS,

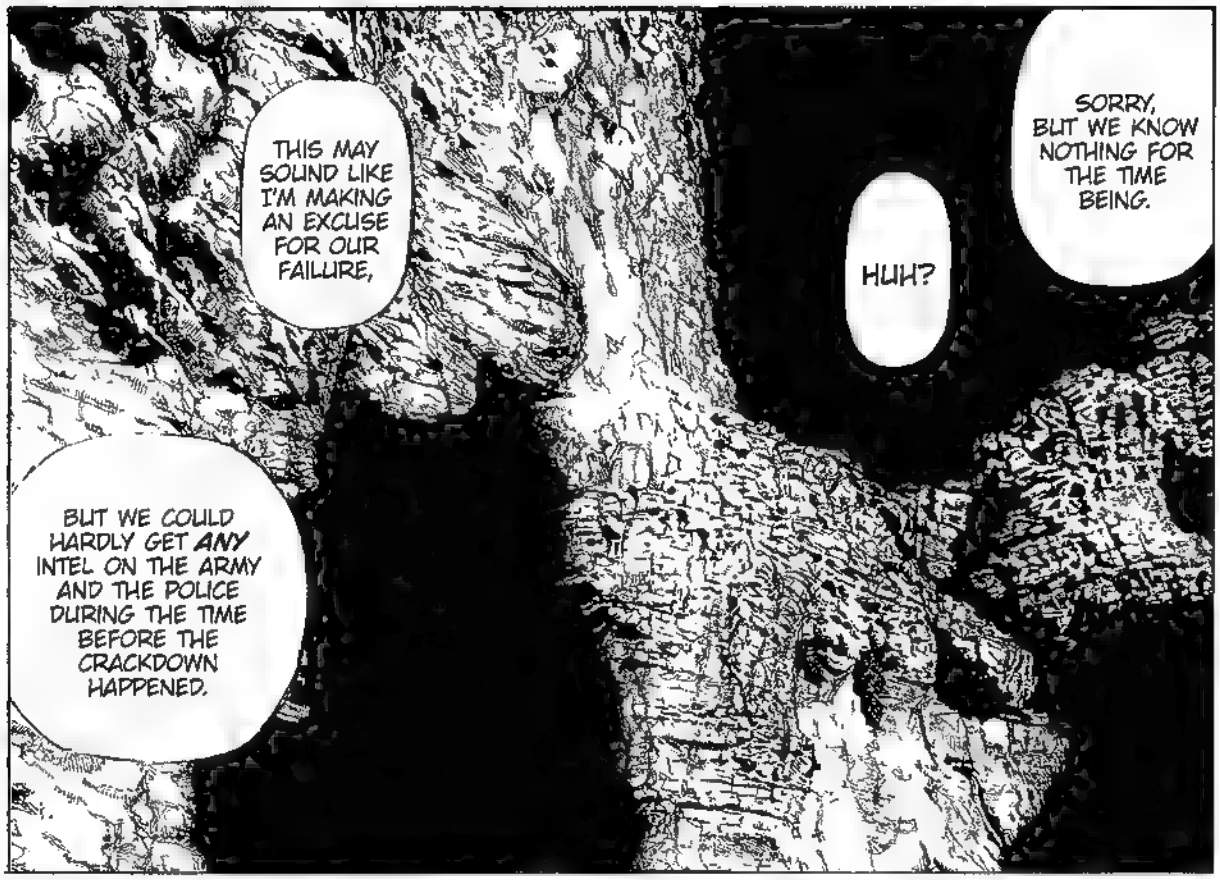
EXCUSE ME...
I...


I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'RE SAFE NOW.
ANYWAYS, GIVEN THAT WE MANAGE TO REGROUP,
...I WON-DER.


WHA?
...HAPPENED TO BEAT UP FOUR PEOPLE DOWN THERE.

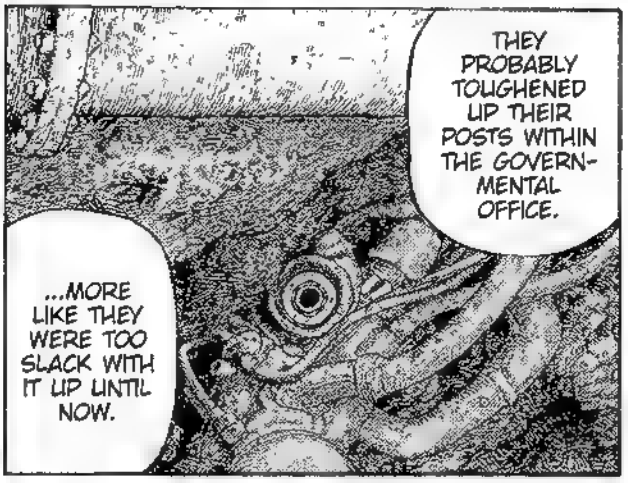
YOU DON'T SAY.
THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR US...
West, 4000 meters!
It's them!
Again!
Eehh!

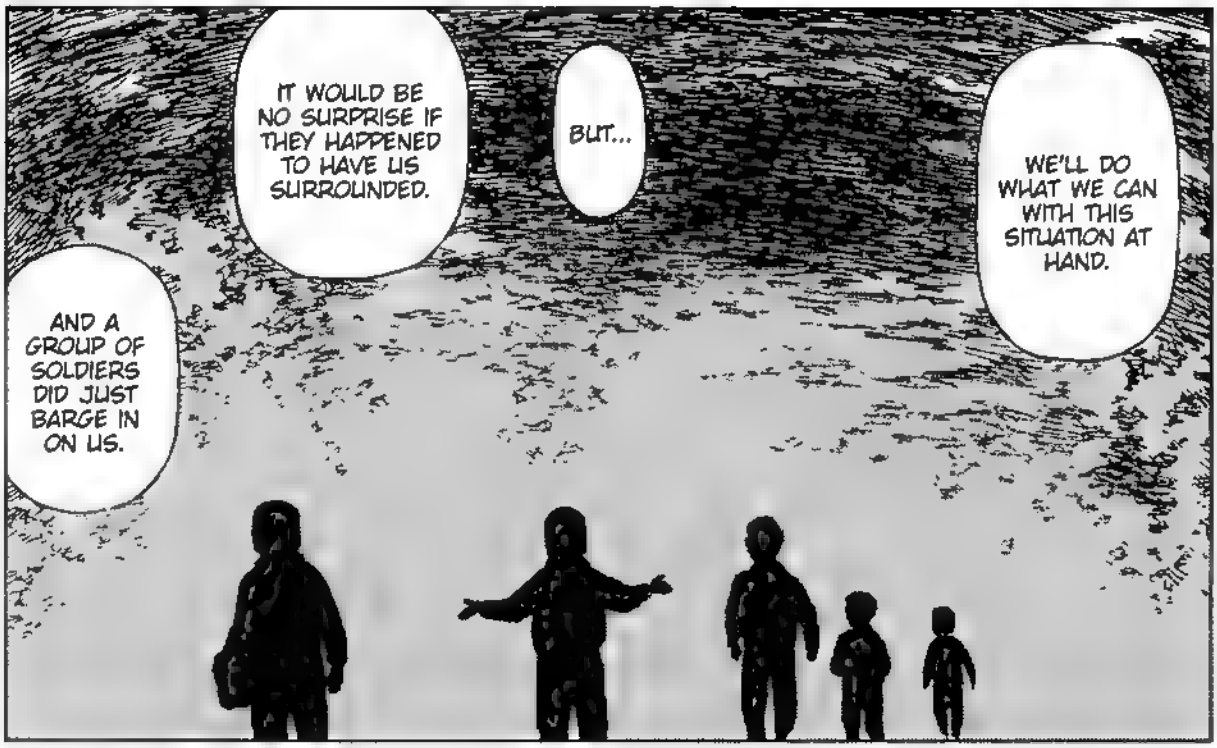
DID YOU RECEIVE... ANY INFO ABOUT THAT?
YES.
BEATEN UP, YOU MEAN THE POLICE?

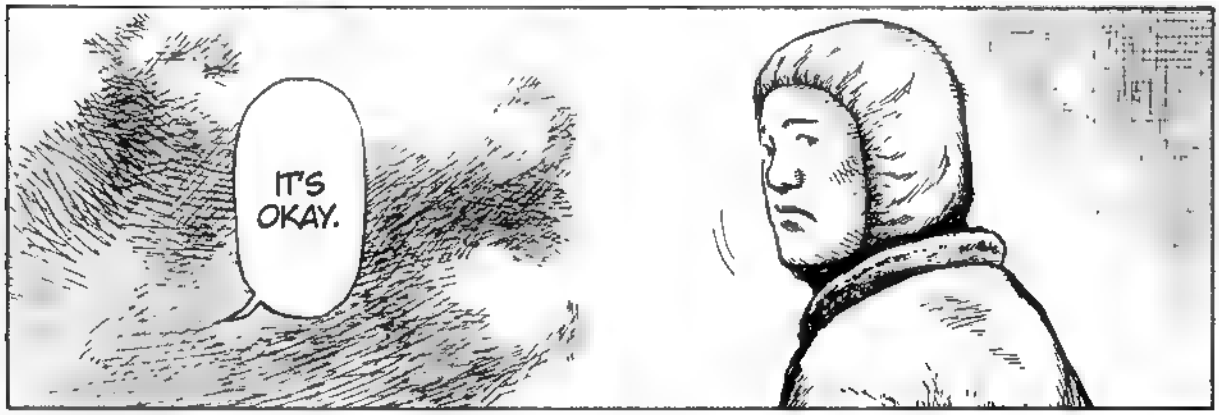

THIS MAY SOUND LIKE I'M MAKING AN EXCUSE FOR OUR FAILURE,
SORRY, BUT WE KNOW NOTHING FOR THE TIME BEING.
HUH?
BUT WE COULD HARDLY GET ANY INTEL ON THE ARMY AND THE POLICE DURING THE TIME BEFORE THE CRACKDOWN HAPPENED.

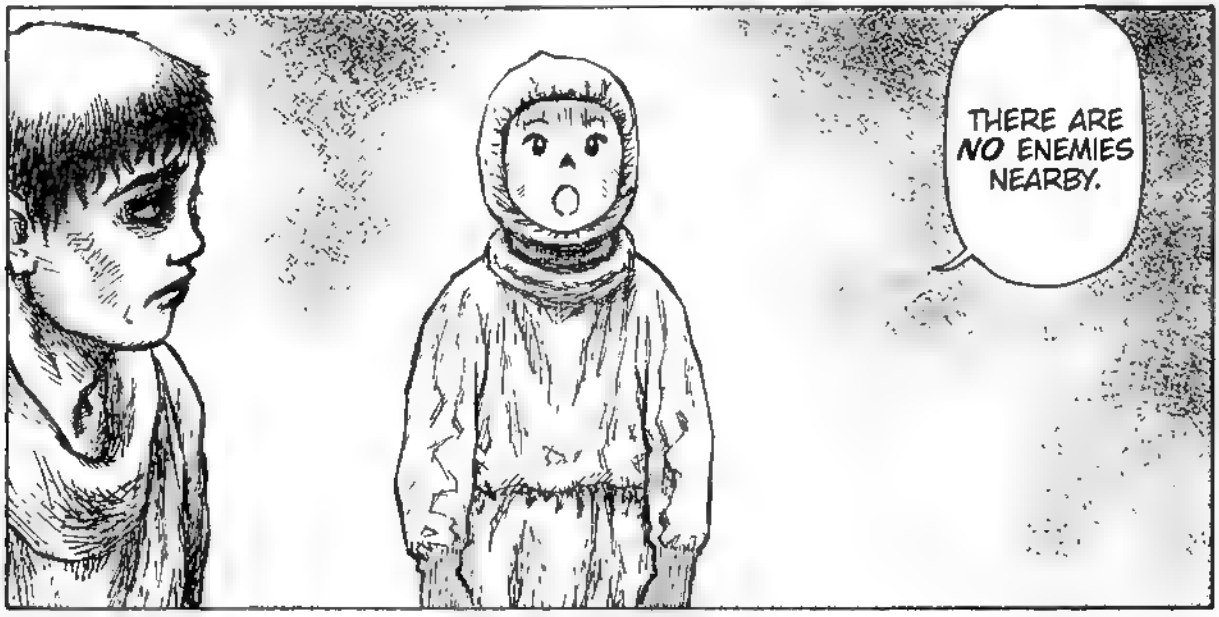
...HM, WELL THEN...
YUP, WE CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT WE'RE SAFE RIGHT NOW.

NO.
APPARENTLY, ALL OF A SUDDEN OUR SOURCE SHUT TIGHT.
WHY? DID YOUR SPY GET CAUGHT?


THEY PROBABLY TOUGHENED UP THEIR POSTS WITHIN THE GOVERN-MENTAL OFFICE.
...MORE LIKE THEY WERE TOO SLACK WITH IT UP UNTIL NOW.


IT WOULD BE NO SURPRISE IF THEY HAPPENED TO HAVE US SURROUNDED.
BUT...
WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN WITH THIS SITUATION AT HAND.
AND A GROUP OF SOLDIERS DID JUST BARGE IN ON US.


IT'S OKAY.

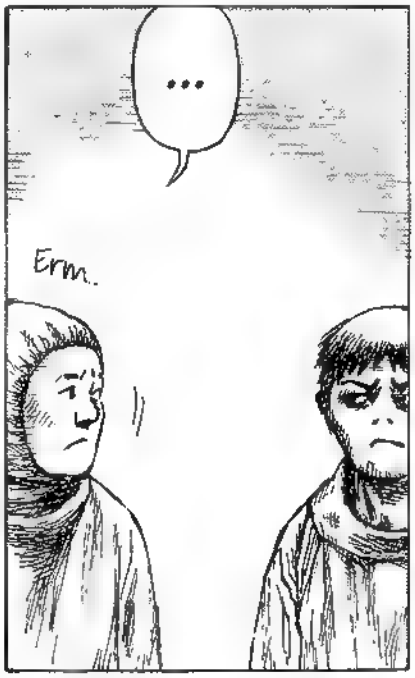

THERE ARE *NO* ENEMIES NEARBY.

THEN IT IS OKAY.
IF MISS TAIKO SAYS IT'S OKAY,

PRE... COG?
...HER PRECOGNITION, WE MANAGED TO SURVIVE UP UNTIL NOW.
THANKS TO...

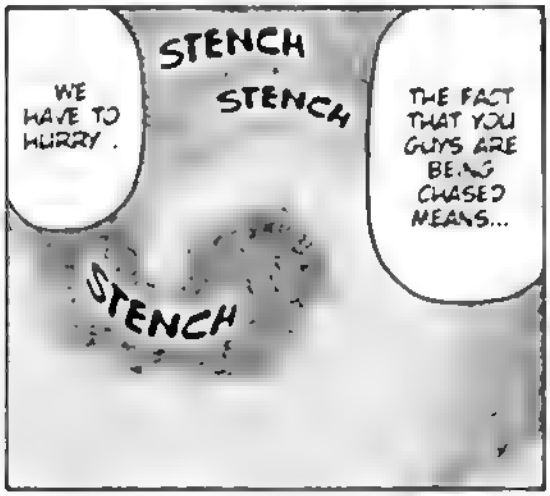
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
ABOUT THAT...
FLAKE
FLAKE

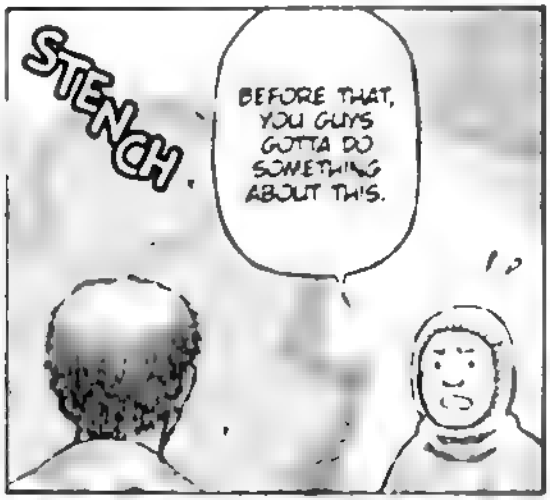
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
ARH-GHH...


...
Erm.

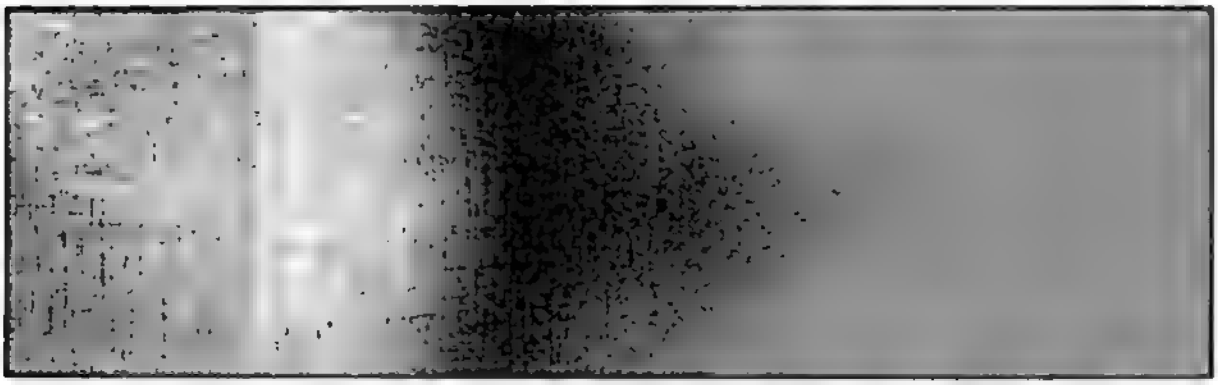
HMPH
SOUNDS INTER-ESTING.
DON'T MAKE IT SO.

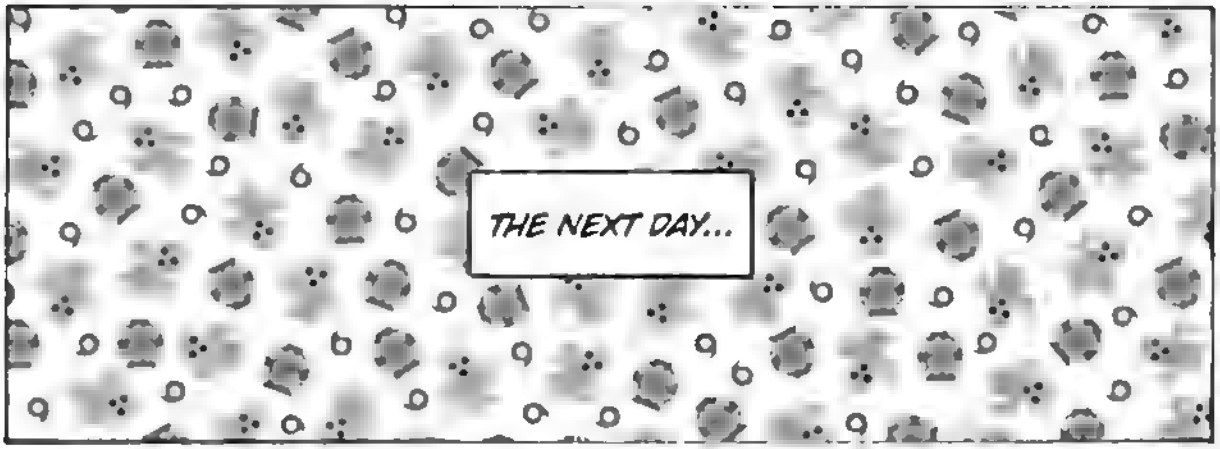
I'LL WRITE THIS DOWN IN DETAIL IN MY REPORT LATER.
THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES THAT SHOW-CASED SAID ABILITY.
OOH.


STENCH
STENCH
STENCH
WE HAVE TO HURRY.
THE FACT THAT YOU GUYS ARE BEING CHASED MEANS...

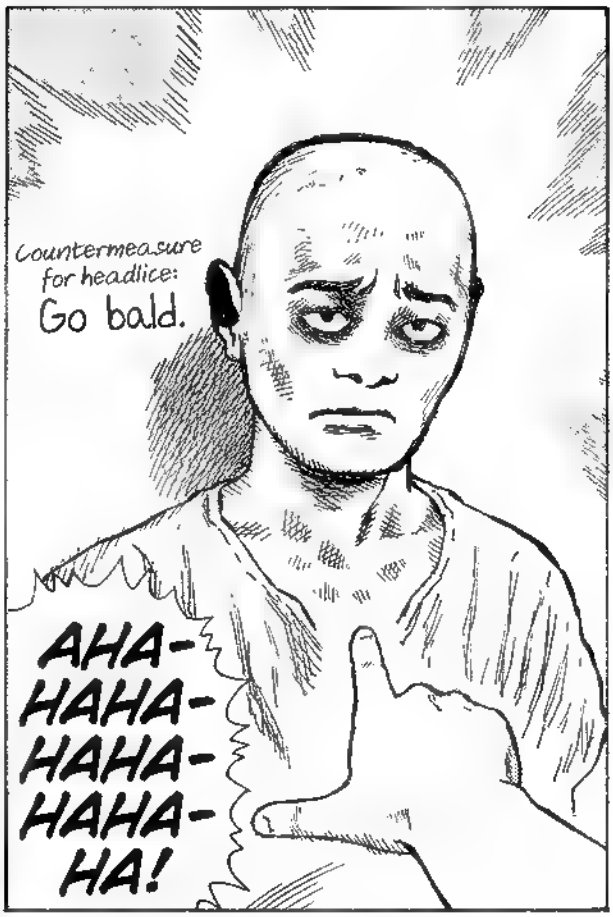

STENCH.
BEFORE THAT, YOU GUYS GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

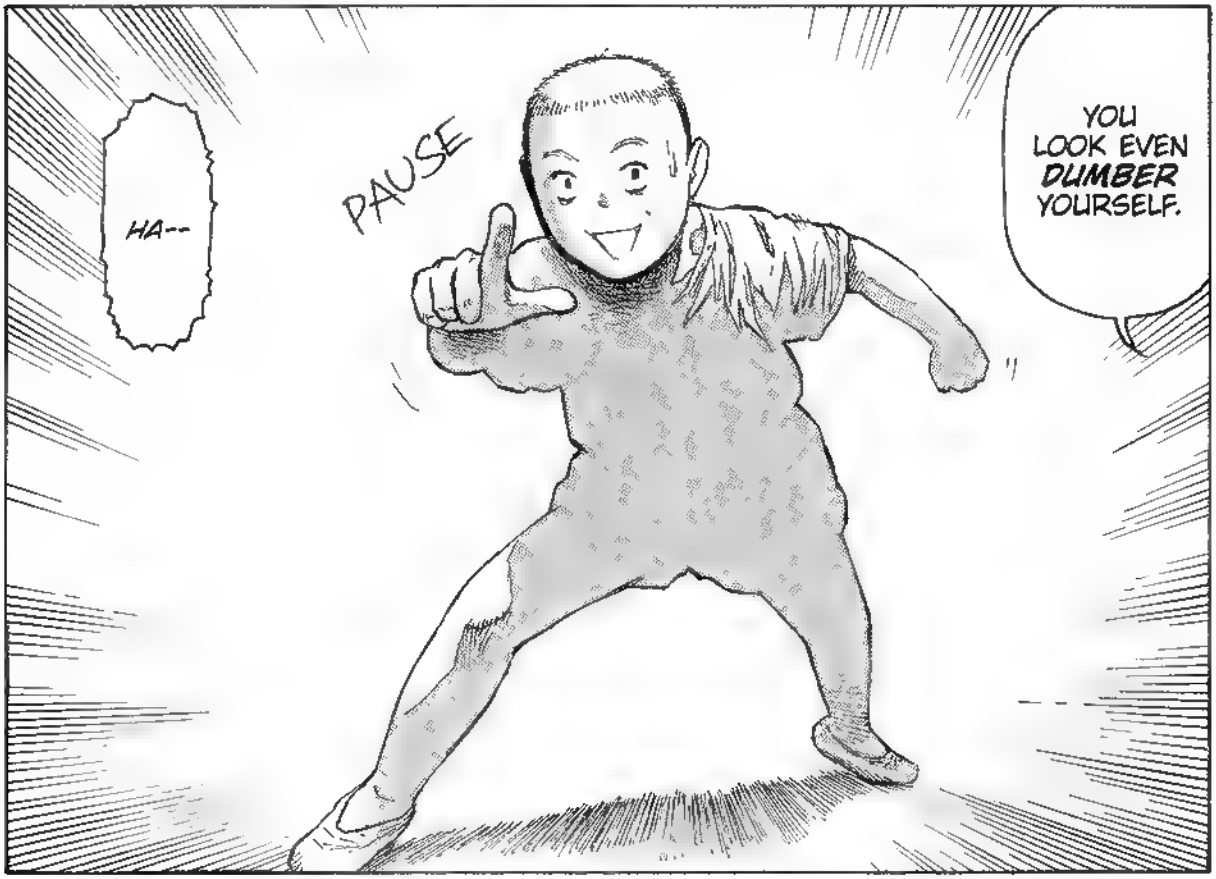
WHAT'S THE PLAN FROM HERE ON OUT?
GET OUT OF THE VILLAGE.




THE NEXT DAY...

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
NYA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA-HA!


Countermeasure for headlice: Go bald.
AHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA-HA!


HA--
PAUSE
YOU LOOK EVEN DUMBER YOURSELF.

ORIGINALLY, THEY PLANNED TO ESCAPE FROM THE VILLAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,

BUT SINCE THEY WERE REMARKABLY FRAIL,

COUPLED WITH THE FACT THEY WERE EXPOSED IN A TERRIBLE ENVIRONMENT A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THEIR HEALTH WAS A CONCERN.

AND SO, THEY EXTENDED THEIR STAY FOR MORE REST AND HEALTH CHECKUPS.

Exhausted

YO.

SLURP

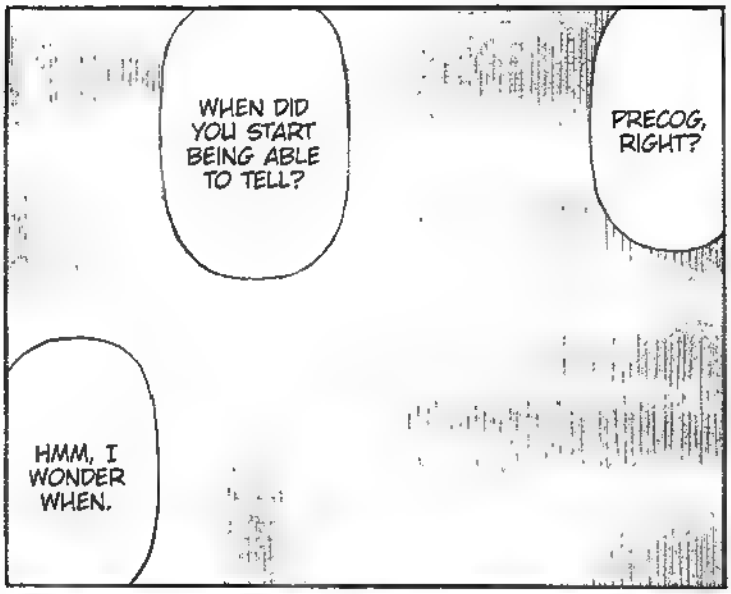
SLURP

SNORE
SLEEP-ING.
AND THE OTHER TWO?
ZZZZ
SNORT
SNORE

WHAT YOU DOING ALL ALONE?
'SUP.
EATING.

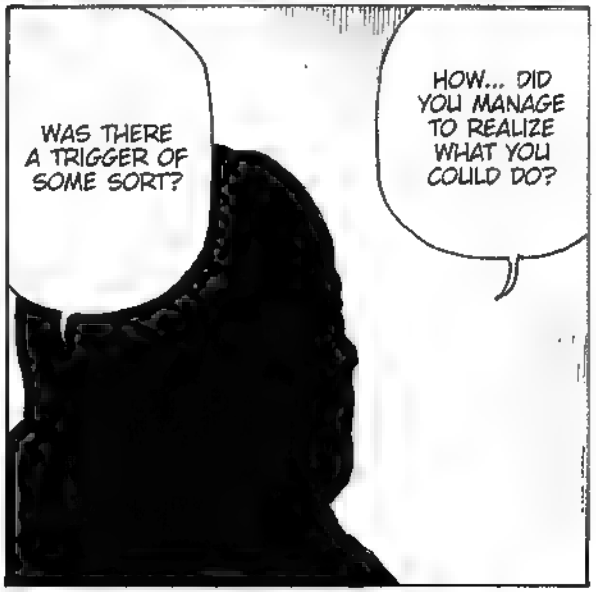
SO YOU CAN TELL...
THERE ARE NO ENEMIES HERE.
...IF THERE ARE ENEMIES OR NOT.

IT'S FINE.
THERE ISN'T REALLY A SAFER PLACE...
SORRY ABOUT THIS PLACE.

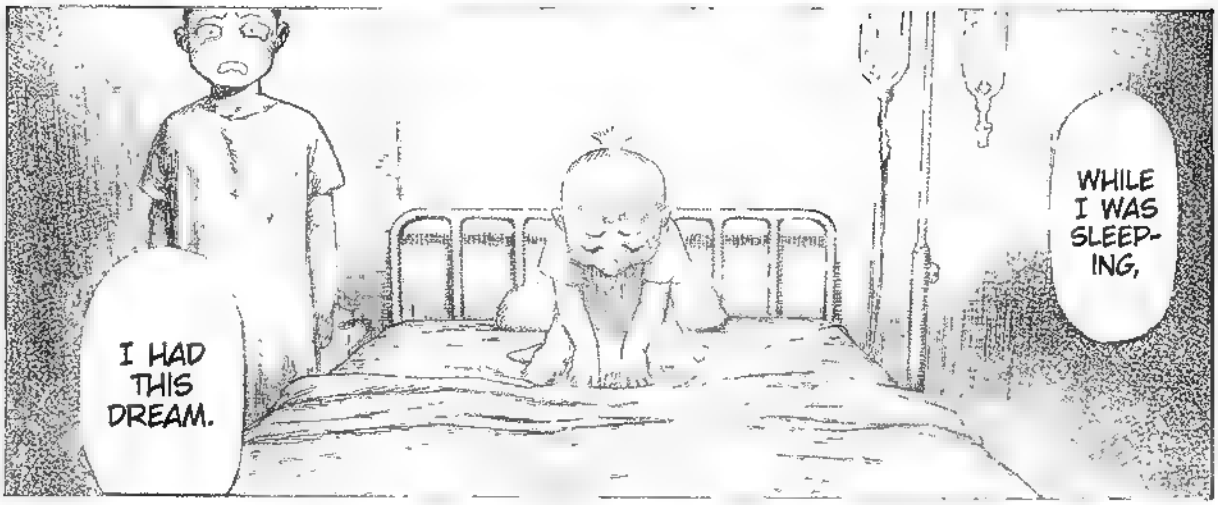

WHEN DID YOU START BEING ABLE TO TELL?
PRECOG, RIGHT?
HMM, I WONDER WHEN.

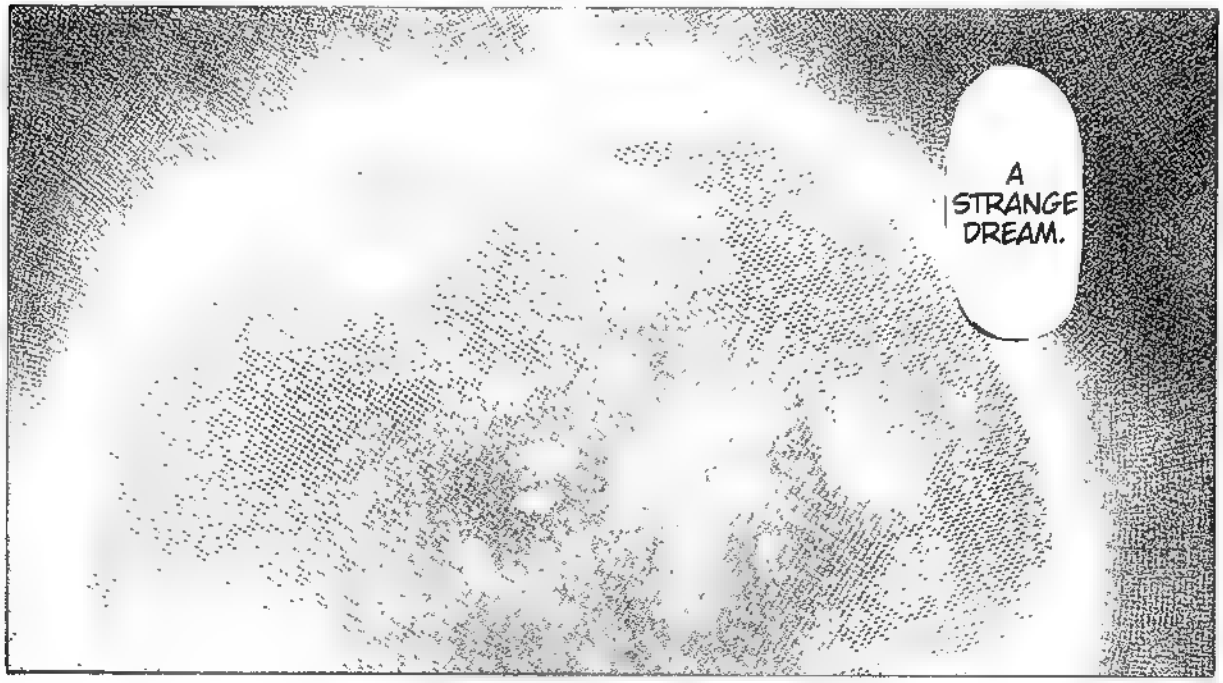
MMHM.

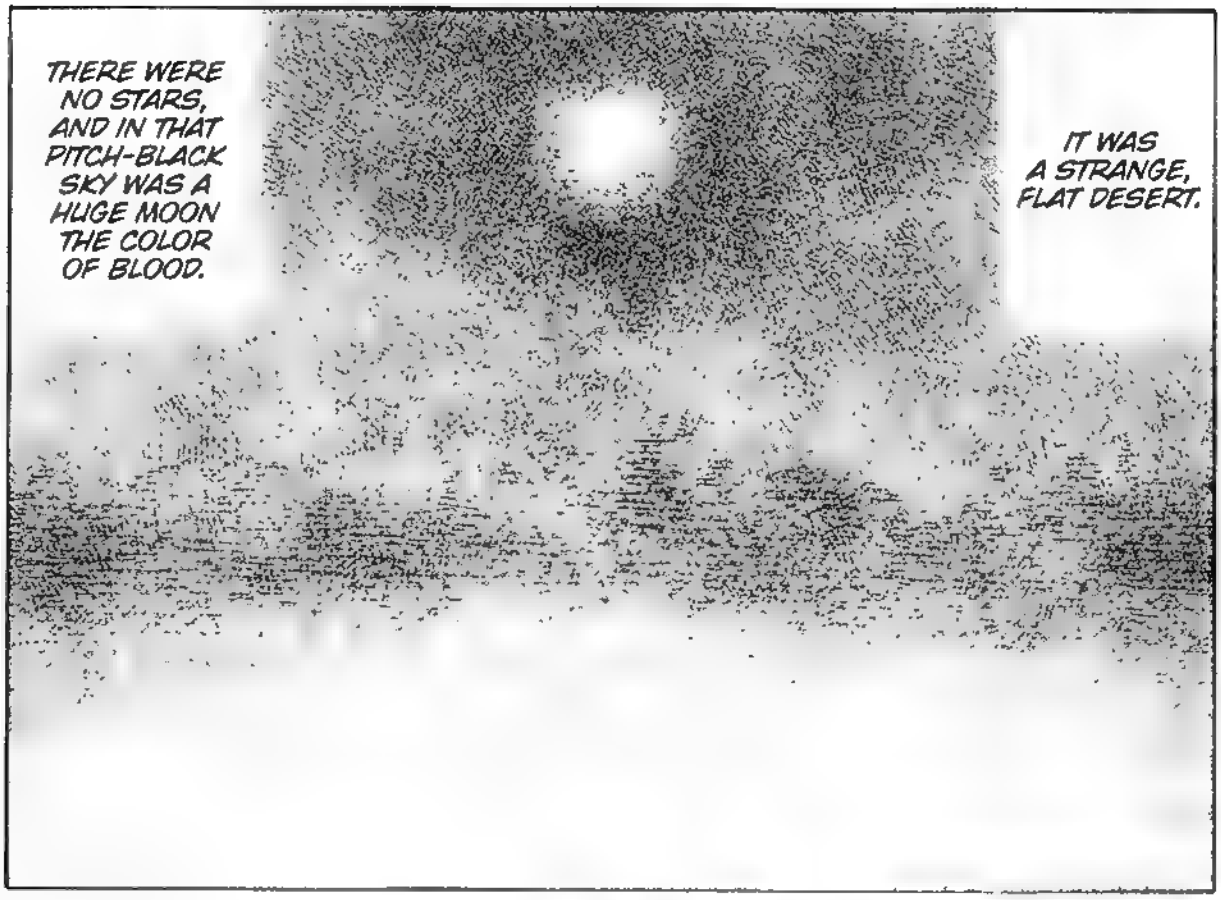
INTEREST-ING...
HMMM...
SLURP
BUT I ONLY REALIZED WHAT THIS WAS JUST RECENTLY.
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL SINCE LONG AGO,

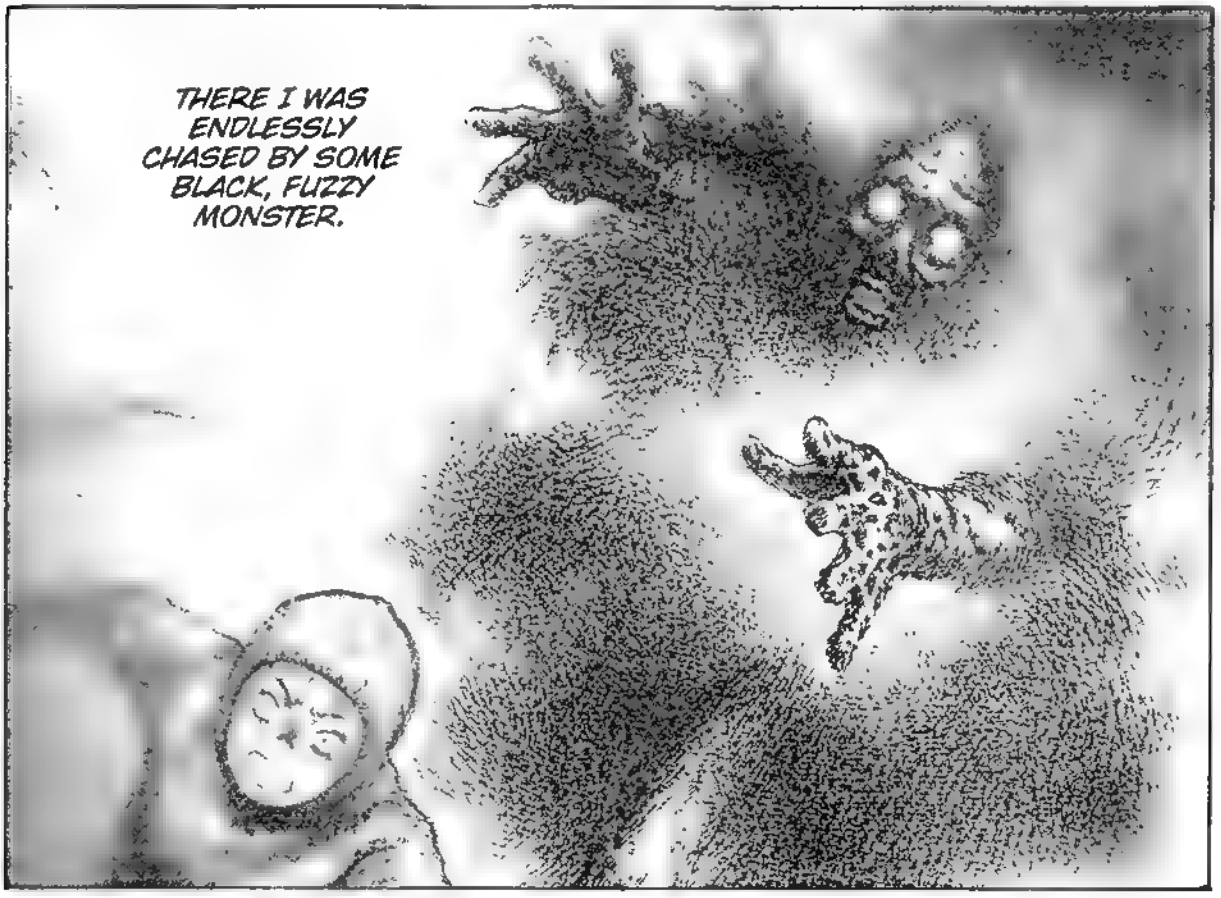

WAS THERE A TRIGGER OF SOME SORT?
HOW... DID YOU MANAGE TO REALIZE WHAT YOU COULD DO?

A DREAM, PER-HAPS...


I HAD THIS DREAM.
WHILE I WAS SLEEP-ING,


A STRANGE DREAM.


THERE WERE NO STARS, AND IN THAT PITCH-BLACK SKY WAS A HUGE MOON THE COLOR OF BLOOD.
IT WAS A STRANGE, FLAT DESERT.


THERE I WAS ENDLESSLY CHASED BY SOME BLACK, FUZZY MONSTER.

IT FELT LIKE IT WAS CLOSE AND FAR AT THE SAME TIME.

HOWEVER, I KNEW THAT IT WOULDN'T GIVE UP CHASING.

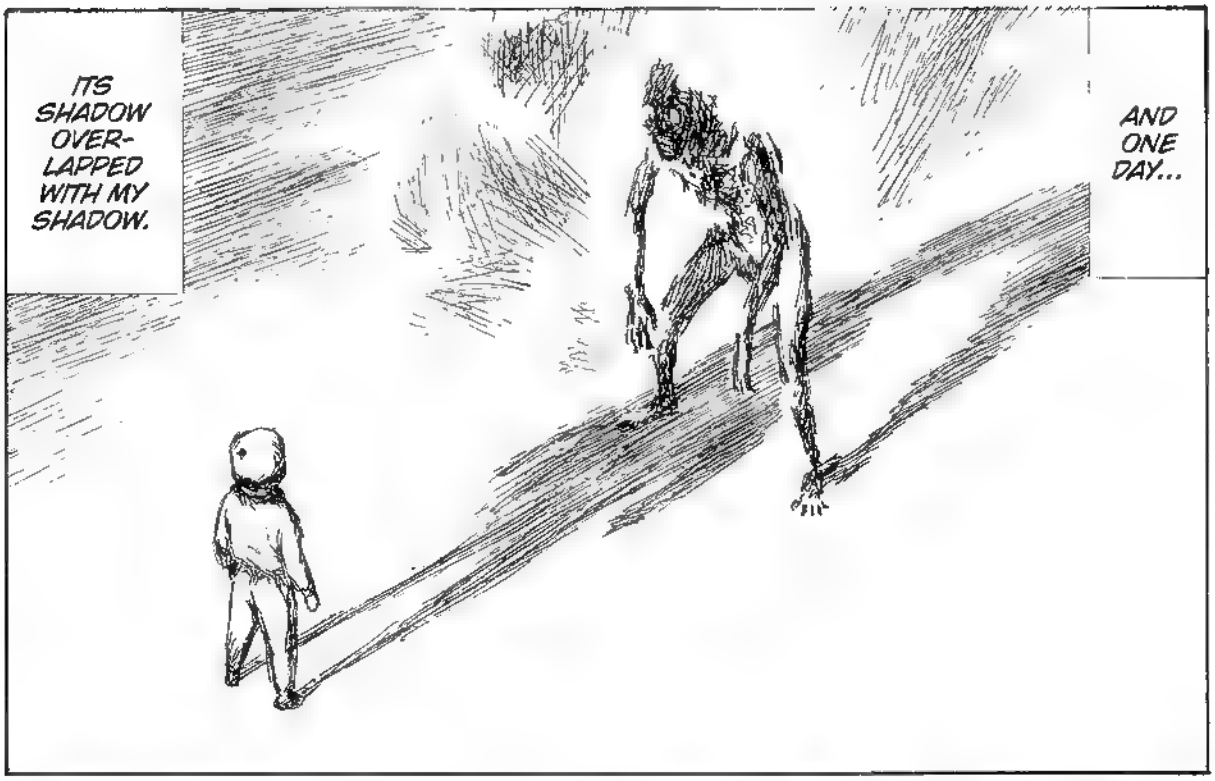
BUT SURPRISINGLY SLOW.

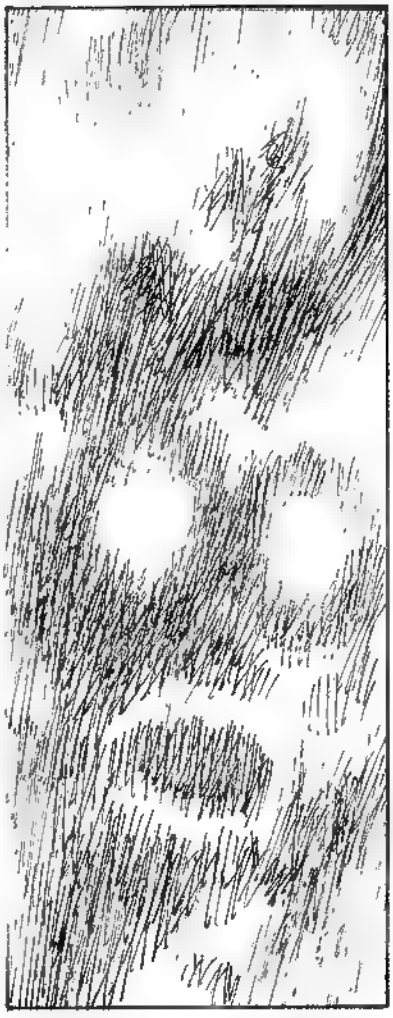
IT WAS A STRANGE MONSTER.

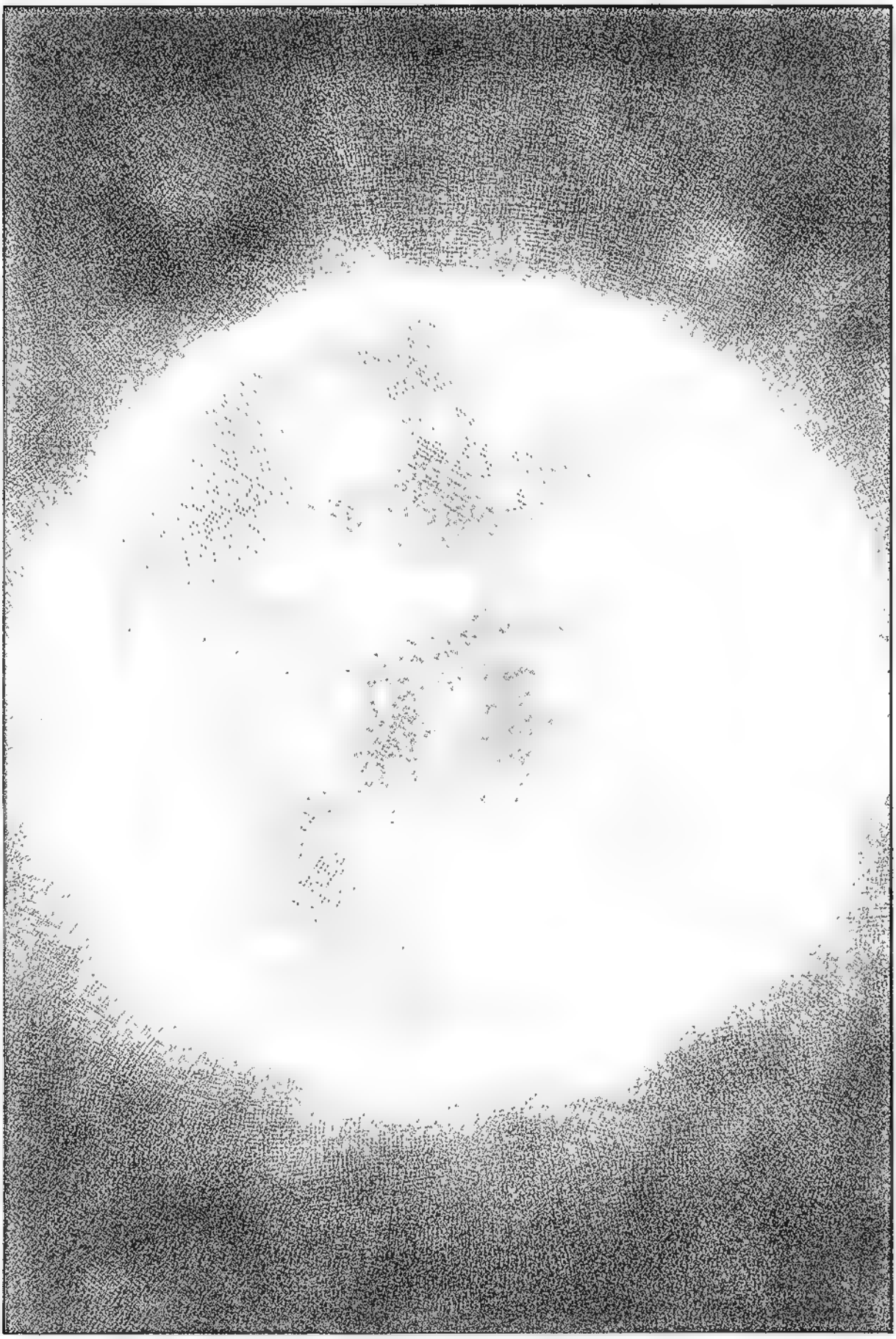
WHEN I STOPPED RUNNING, IT ALSO STOPPED.

AND FOR SOME REASON,

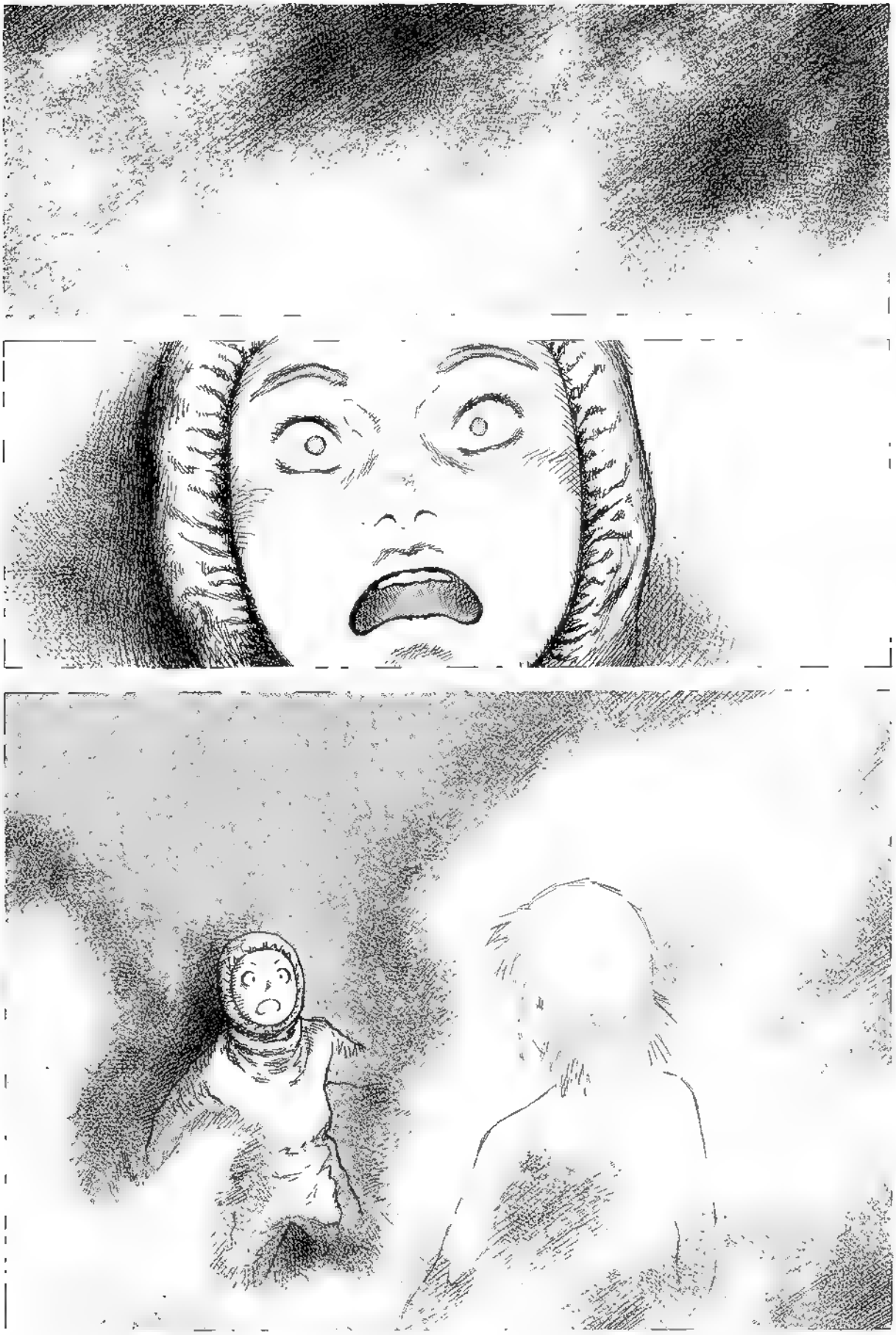
IT WAS MORE REVOLTING THAN SCARY.

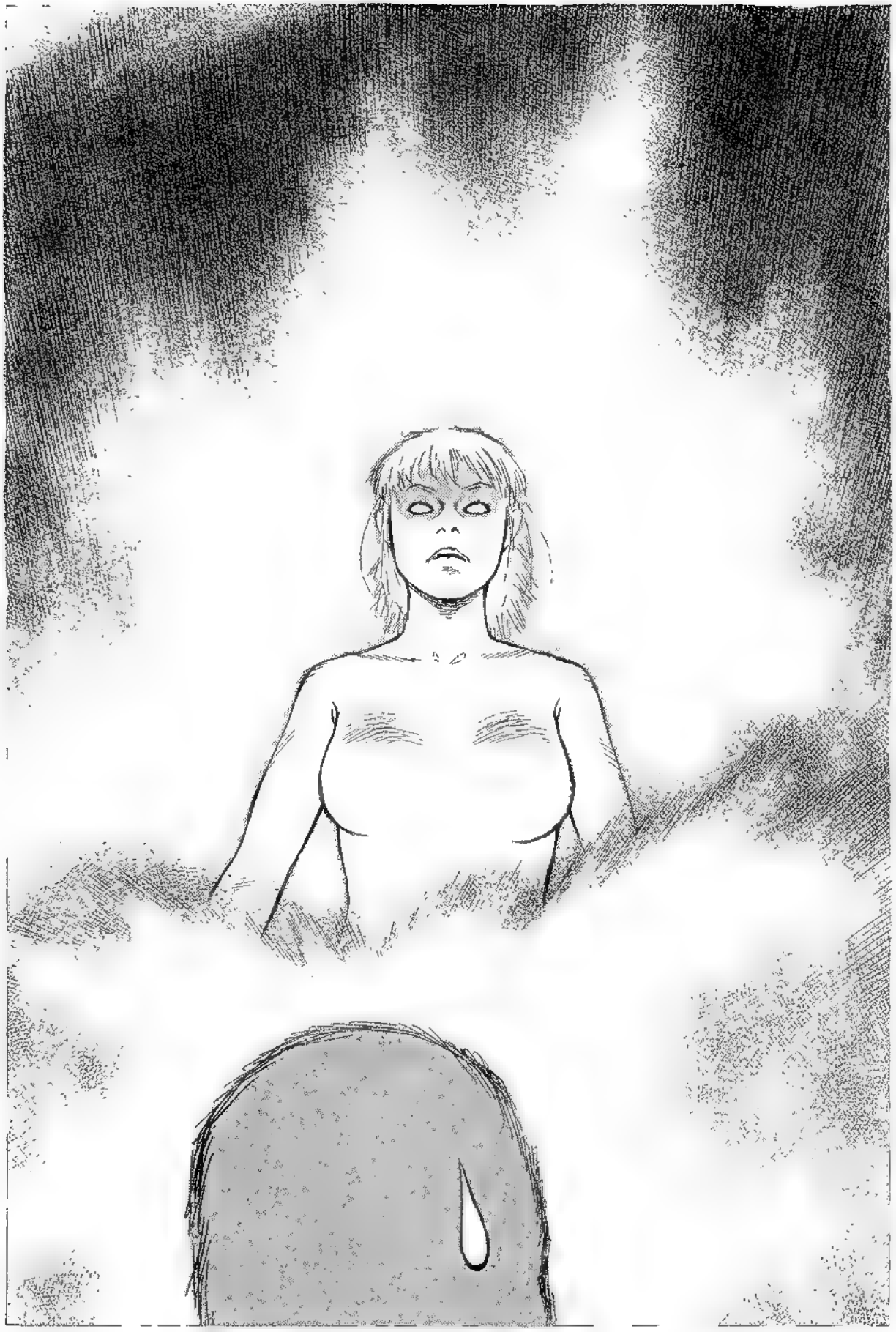

ITS SHADOW OVER-LAPPED WITH MY SHADOW.
AND ONE DAY...

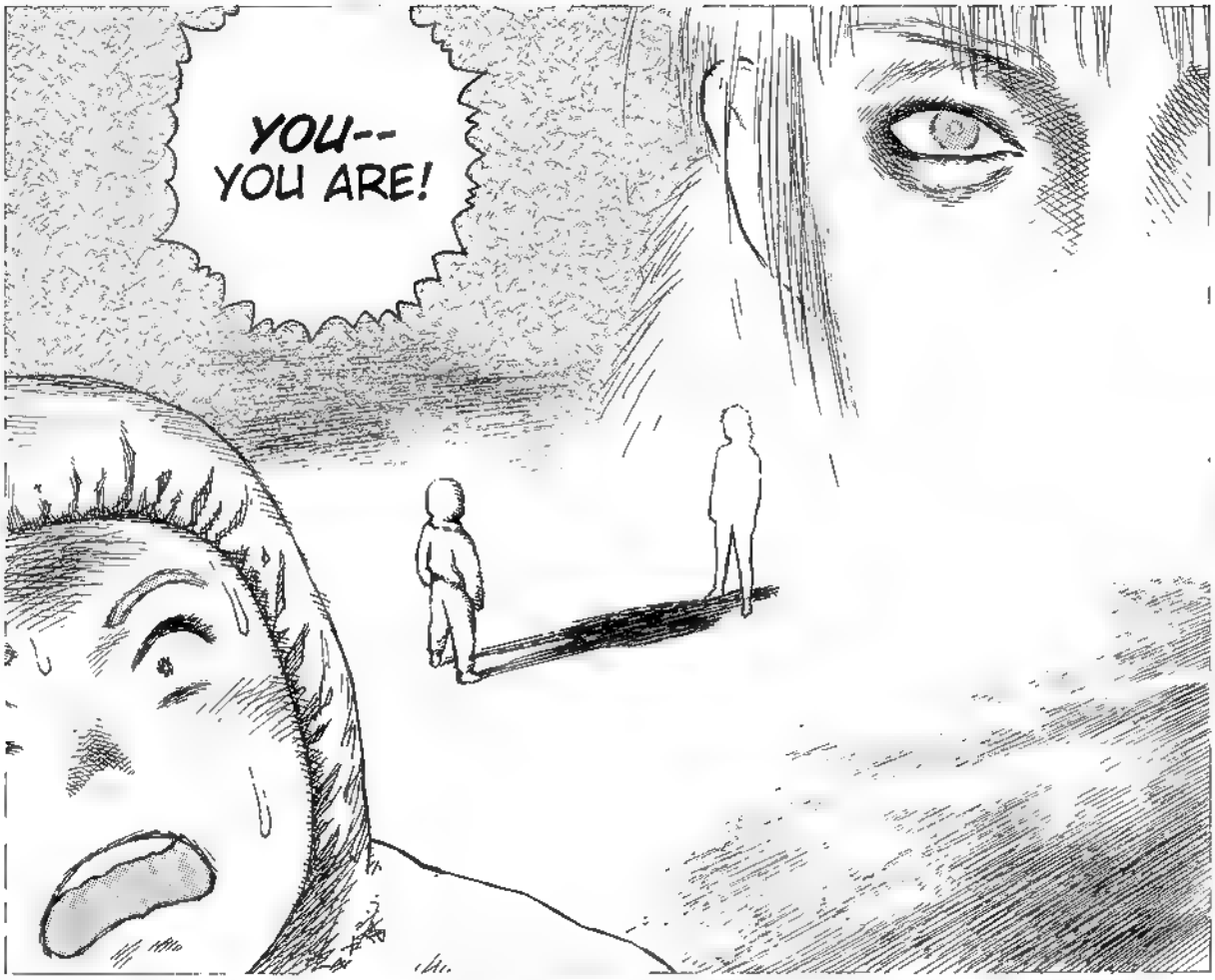




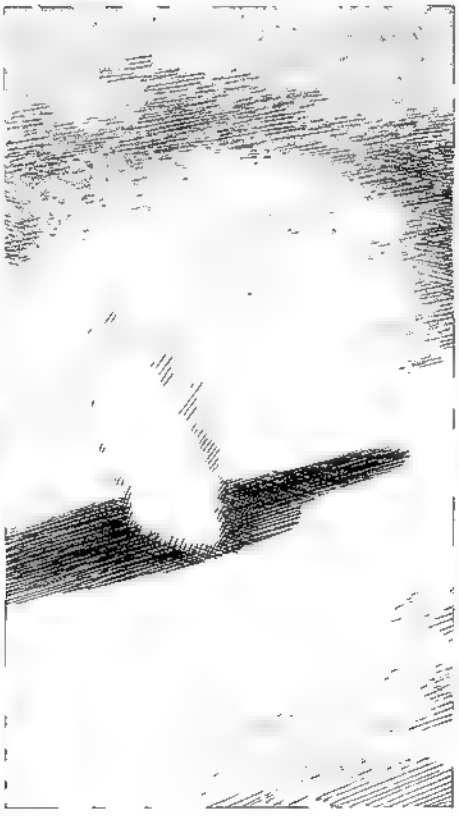
VOL. 112



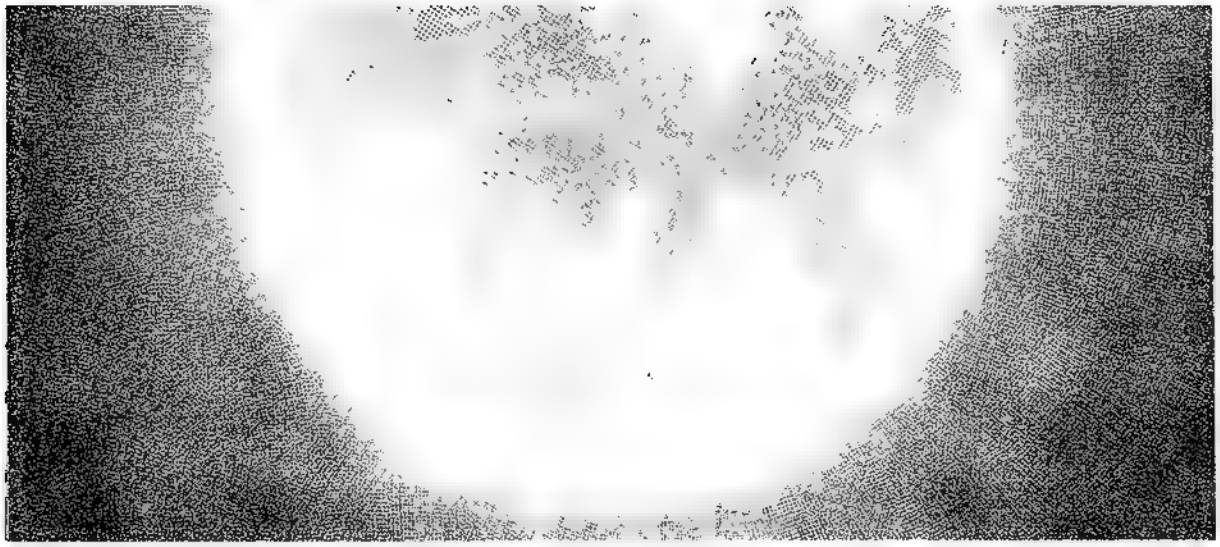


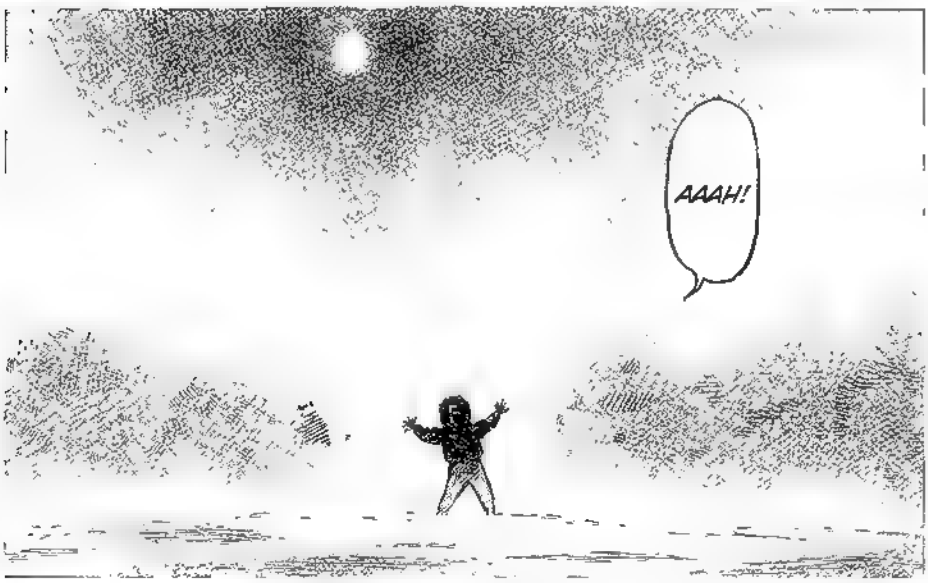

YOU--
YOU ARE!

HUH?

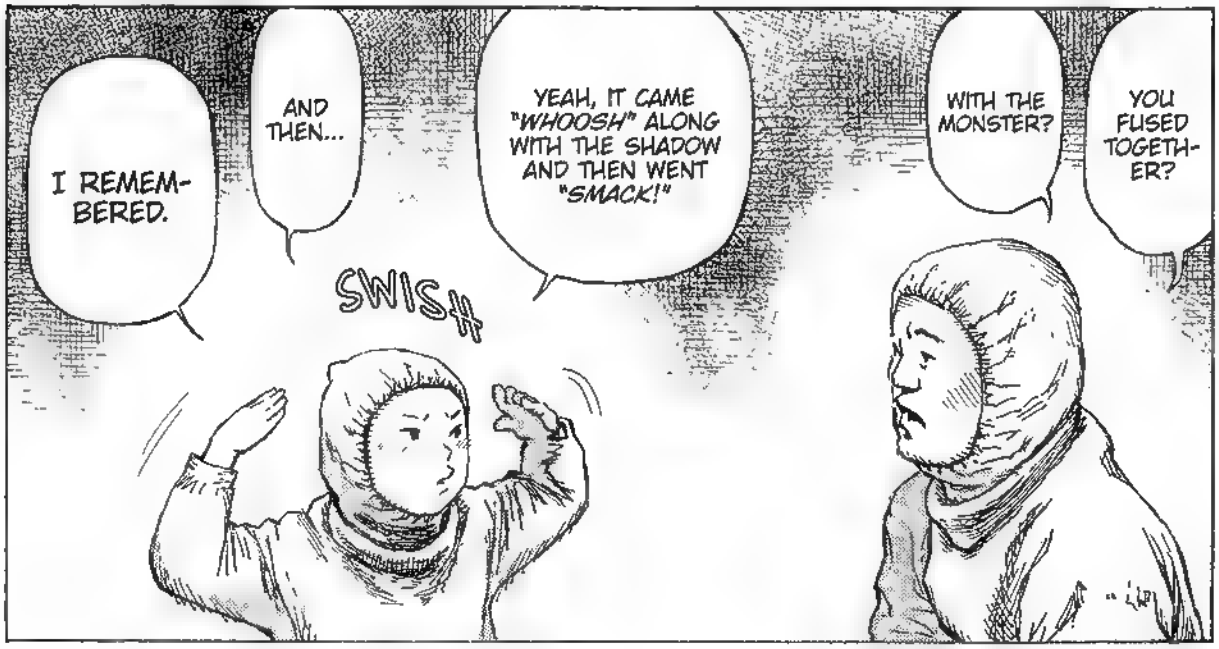


BAM
PAAH!




AAAH!

...AH?


I REMEMBERED.
AND THEN...
SWISH
YEAH, IT CAME "WHOOSH" ALONG WITH THE SHADOW AND THEN WENT "SMACK!"
WITH THE MONSTER?
YOU FUSED TOGETHER?

IT IS A PART OF ME.

SOMETHING I HAD LEFT BEHIND AND FORGOTTEN SINCE LONG AGO.

THAT THING IS...

HMM...

WHAT?

ERMM...

WHAT A WASTE.

I WONDER WHY I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.

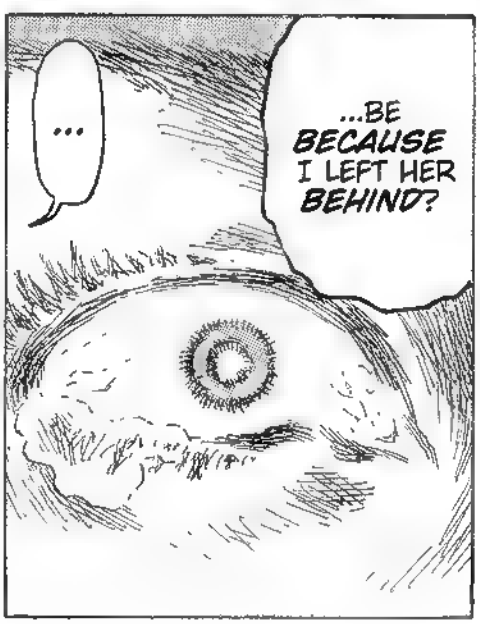
HMMM...

SWEAT

Them puppies...
THOSE BOOBS WERE MASSIVE.

...THAT I'M SO FLAT...
COULD THE REASON...

MAYBE MY FLAT-CHEST RIGHT NOW WOULD HAVE BEEN...
AND IF I HADN'T LEFT HER BEHIND BACK THEN...


...
...BE BECAUSE I LEFT HER BEHIND?

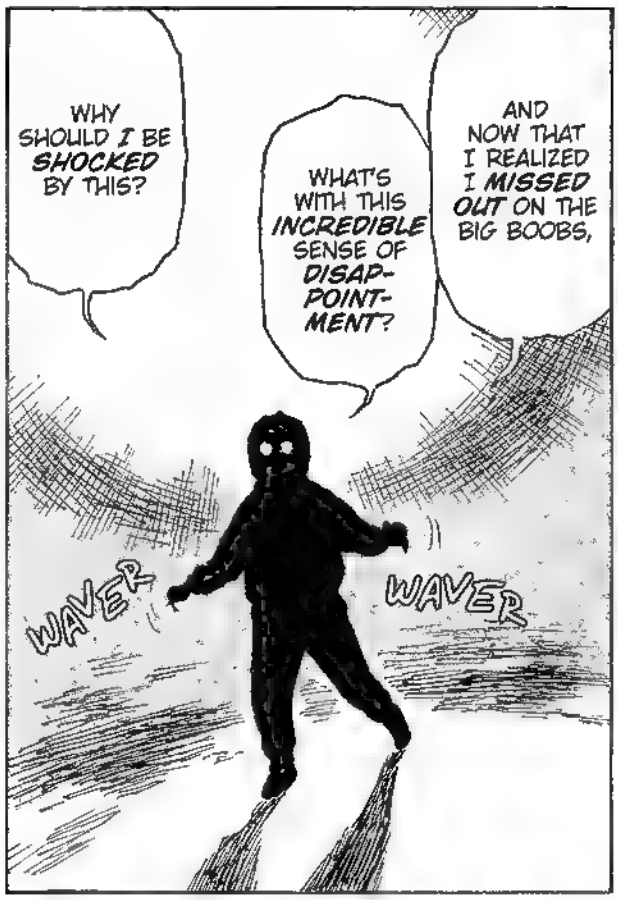
In return, I'll let you touch my boobs. 10000 yen per touch!♡
Thanks!
Taiko honey, I'll treat you to lunch since you're pretty and have big boobs!
BOING
BOING
That's compensated dating

HM... THAT IS A REAL ISSUE FOR WOMEN, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
A WOMAN'S LIFE IS VERY MUCH AFFECTED BY WHETHER YOU HAVE THEM OR NOT.

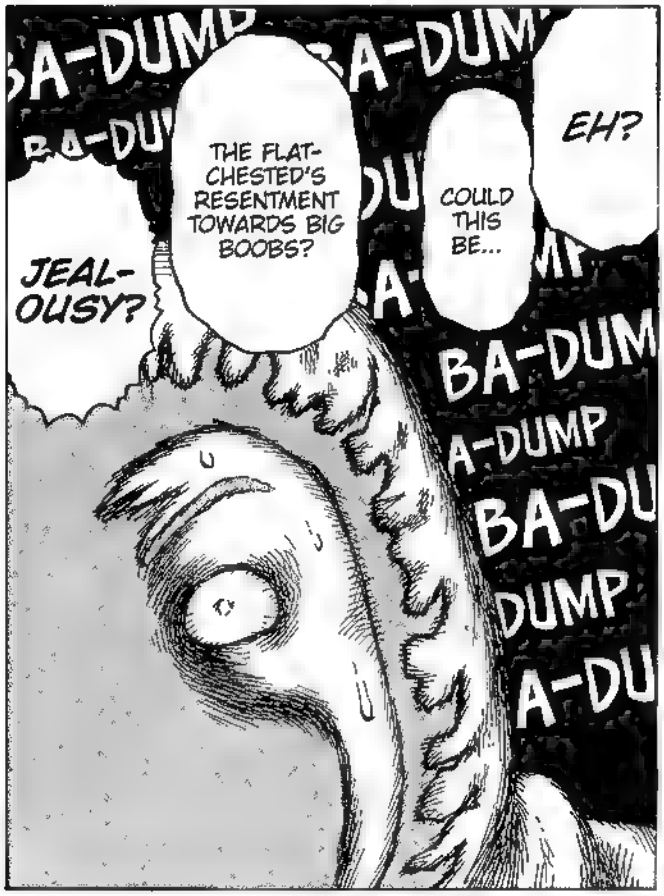
...EH?

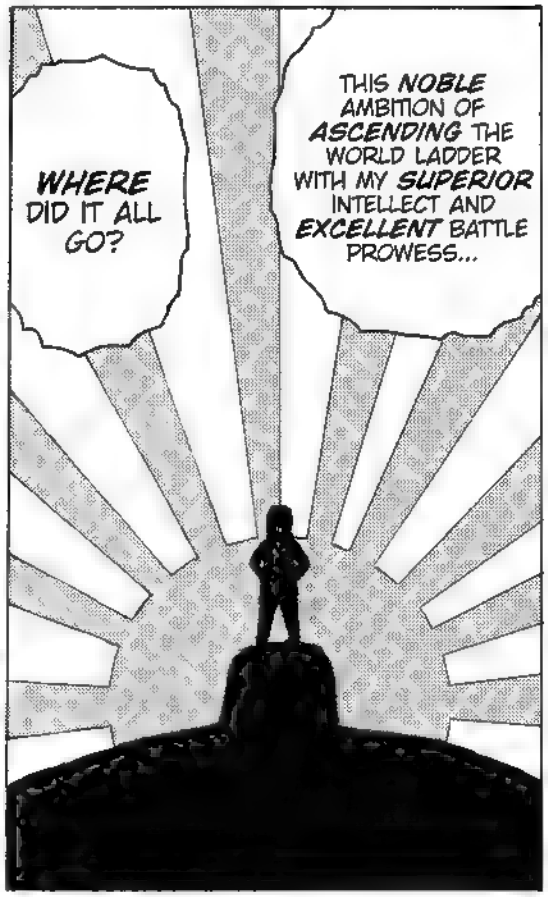
NO!
WAIT A SECOND!
This is hopeless.

LET'S CALL IT HERE...
Just like that?
SLOOM
DID I THROW AWAY MY LIFE?
AAA-AGHH!
.. WITH THE DELUSIONS.


WHY SHOULD I BE SHOCKED BY THIS?
WHAT'S WITH THIS INCREDIBLE SENSE OF DISAP-POINT-MENT?
AND NOW THAT I REALIZED I MISSED OUT ON THE BIG BOOBS,
WAVER
WAVER

AND MAKE AN EARNING WHILE HAVING FUN...
SWEAT
TO BE ABLE TO CON STUPID MEN WITH JUST A LUMP OF FAT.
SWEAT
SWEAT
BUT ALL I GOT WAS VERBAL ABUSE FROM THOSE MEGA LAME ASSHOLES.


BA-DUM
BA-DUM
THE FLAT-CHESTED'S RESENTMENT TOWARDS BIG BOOBS?
COULD THIS BE...
EH?
JEAL-OUSY?
BA-DUM
A-DUMP
BA-DU
DUMP
A-DU

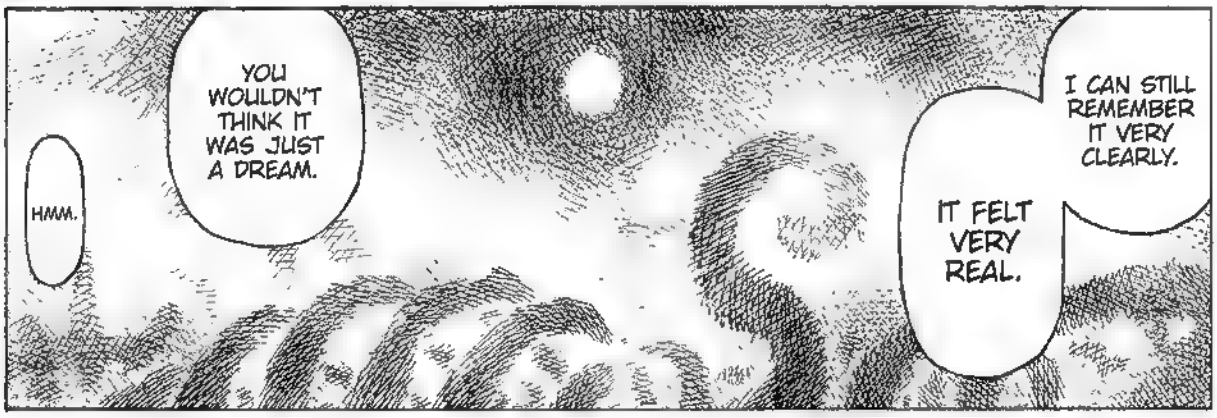

WHERE DID IT ALL GO?
THIS NOBLE AMBITION OF ASCENDING THE WORLD LADDER WITH MY SUPERIOR INTELLECT AND EXCELLENT BATTLE PROWESS...

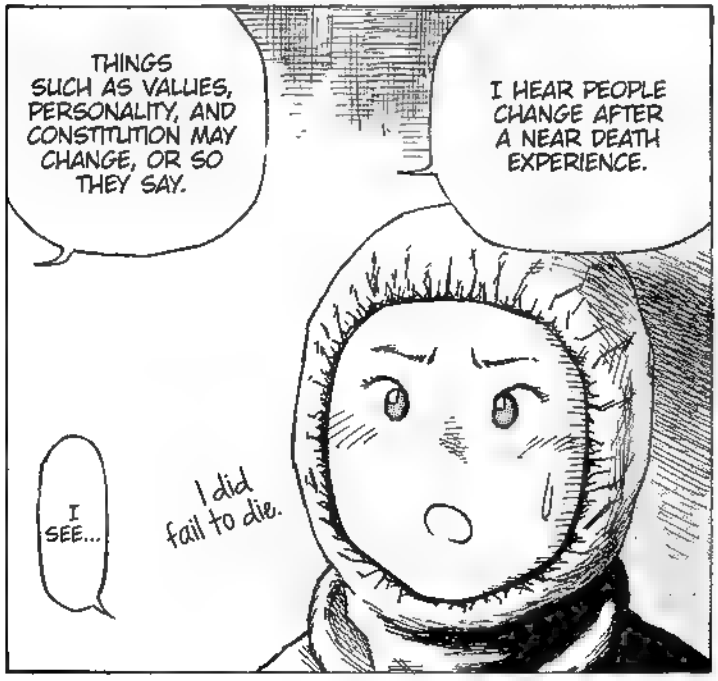
HO
HO
BONG
HO
HO

I DEFINITELY DON'T ENVY HER ONE SINGLE BIT!!!
...
WAAAH!

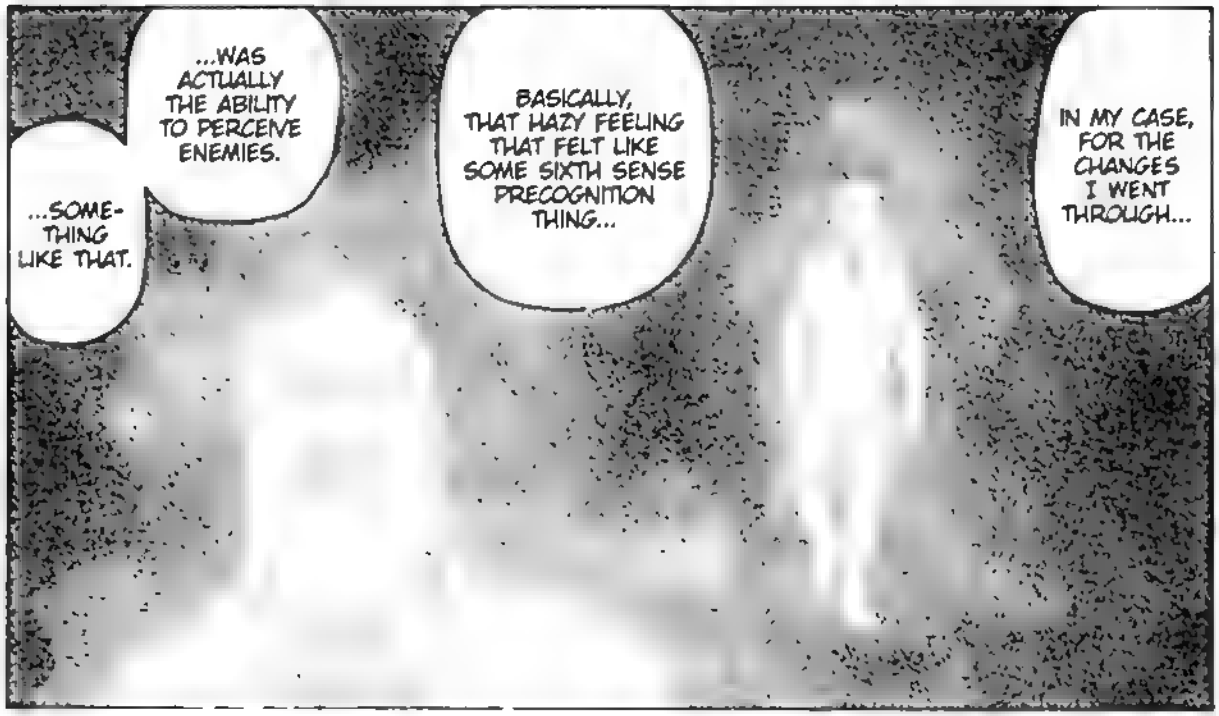
IF YOU COULD, I'D LIKE YOU TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PRECOGNITION...
...OH,
RIGHT.

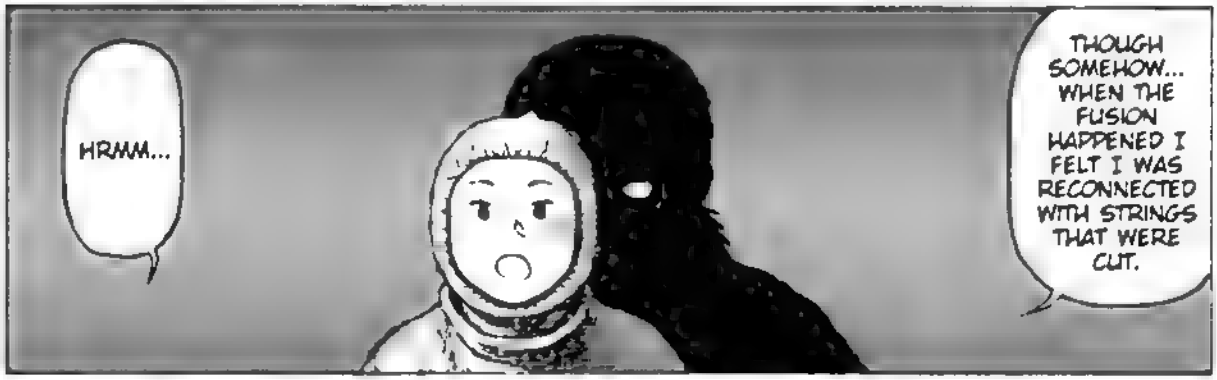
WHO IS "HER?"
You scared me.
WHA?
PANT
PANT
PANT

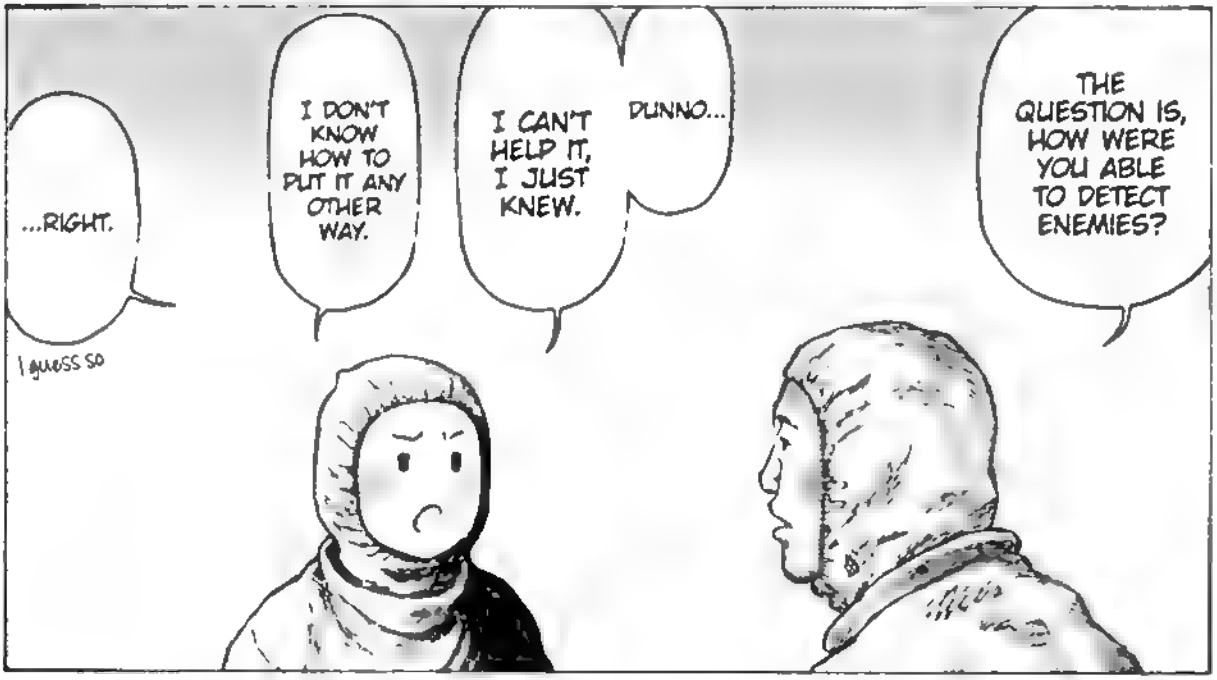

I CAN STILL REMEMBER IT VERY CLEARLY.
IT FELT VERY REAL.
YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
HMM.

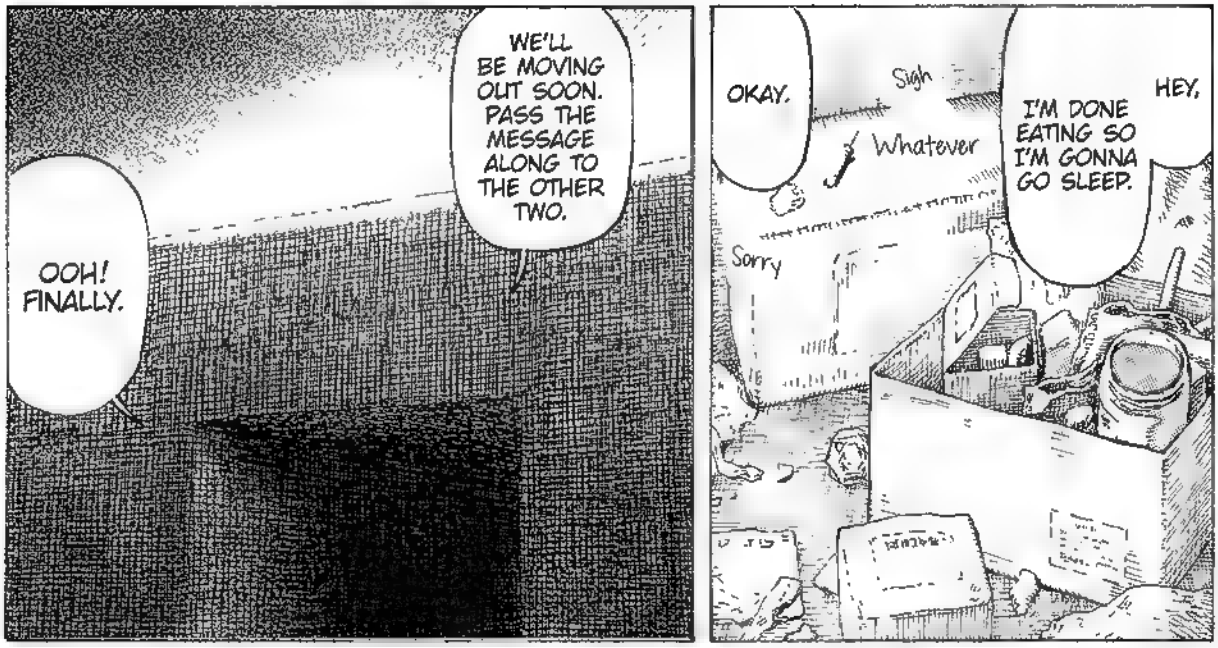

I HEAR PEOPLE CHANGE AFTER A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE.
THINGS SUCH AS VALUES, PERSONALITY, AND CONSTITUTION MAY CHANGE, OR SO THEY SAY.
I did fail to die.
I SEE...

BECOMING ABLE TO SEE ENEMIES...
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, I GUESS.
UH HUH.


IN MY CASE, FOR THE CHANGES I WENT THROUGH...
BASICALLY, THAT HAZY FEELING THAT FELT LIKE SOME SIXTH SENSE PRECOGNITION THING...
...WAS ACTUALLY THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE ENEMIES.
...SOME-THING LIKE THAT.


THOUGH SOMEHOW... WHEN THE FUSION HAPPENED I FELT I WAS RECONNECTED WITH STRINGS THAT WERE CUT.
HRMM...


THE QUESTION IS, HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO DETECT ENEMIES?
DUNNO...
I CAN'T HELP IT, I JUST KNEW.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT ANY OTHER WAY.
...RIGHT.
I guess so


OOH! FINALLY.
WE'LL BE MOVING OUT SOON. PASS THE MESSAGE ALONG TO THE OTHER TWO.
OKAY.
Sigh
Whatever
Sorry
I'M DONE EATING SO I'M GONNA GO SLEEP.
HEY.

...YOUR BOOBS WILL GET BIGGER FROM HERE ON OUT.
MAYBE...

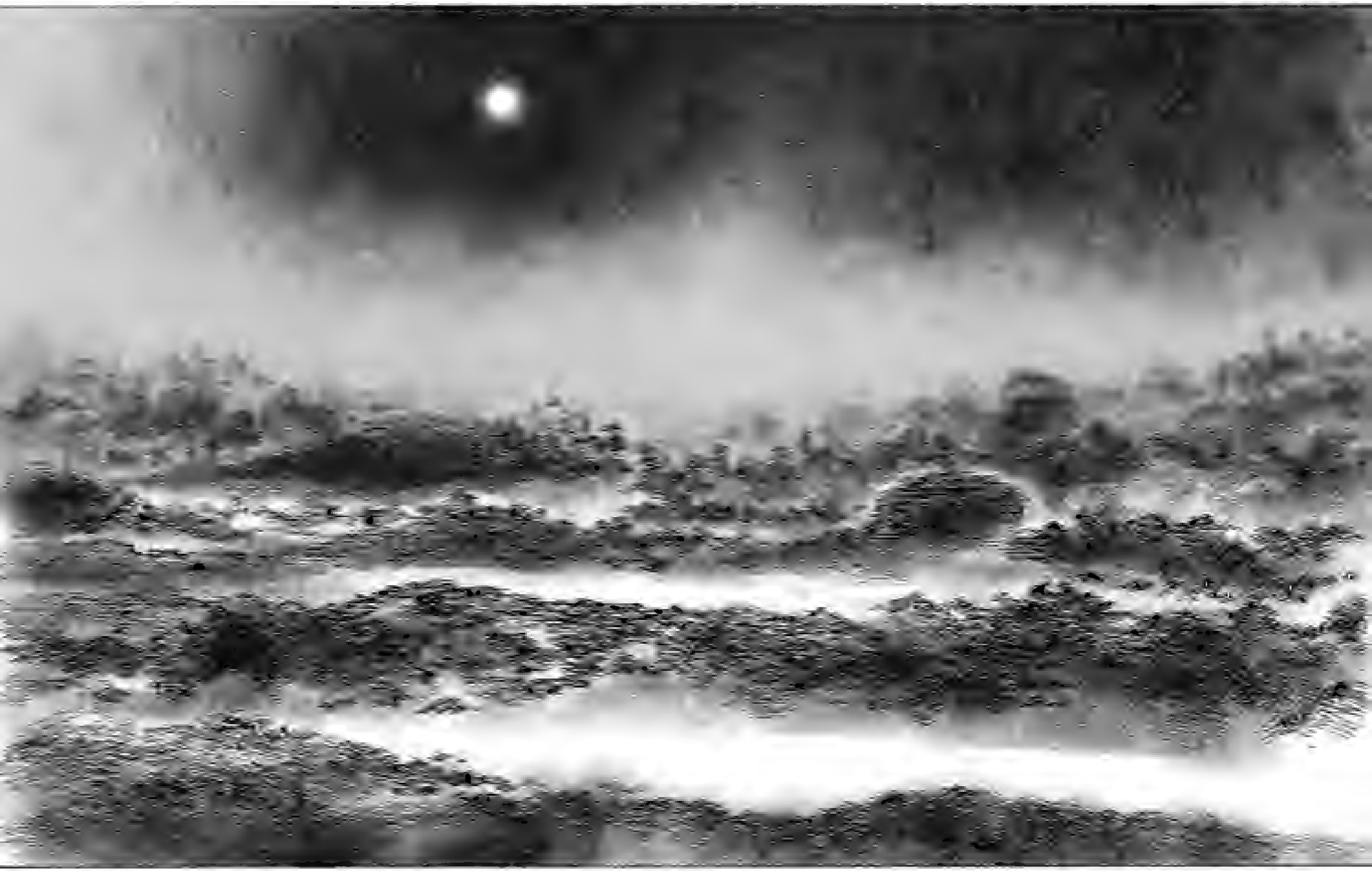
ABOUT THE BOOB SIZES.

HEY.

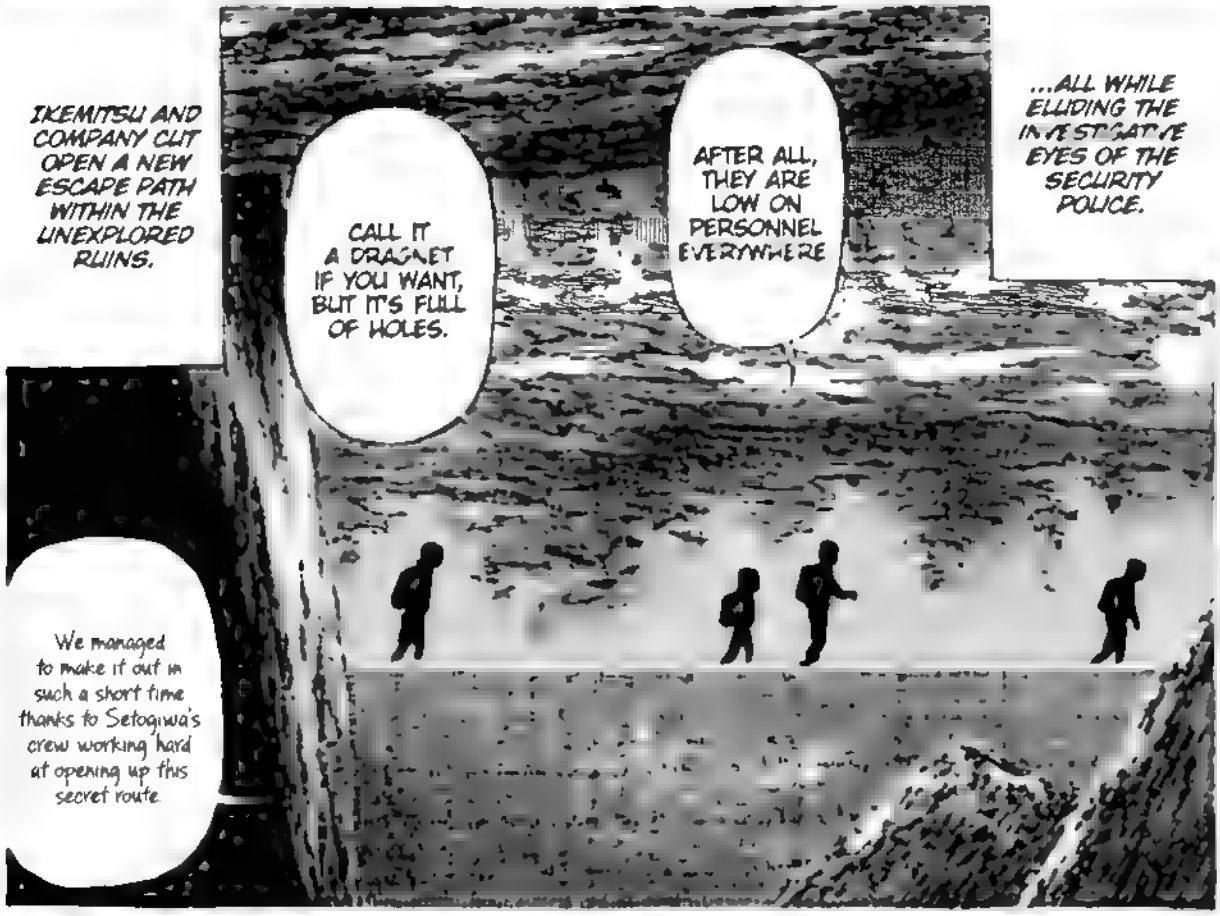
YEAH, AS IF.
SPIN SPIN SPIN
That's true, yeah.
I do have a chance!
Teehehe!
See ya.
MASSAGE
MASSAGE
MASSAGE
MASSAGE

FIRST UP, I NEED TO CONFIRM KOIZUMI'S PRECOGNITIVE ABILITY.

CLOMP
ROLL
ROLL
RATTLE
ROLL
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SNEAK
GRUNCH
Qoooch!



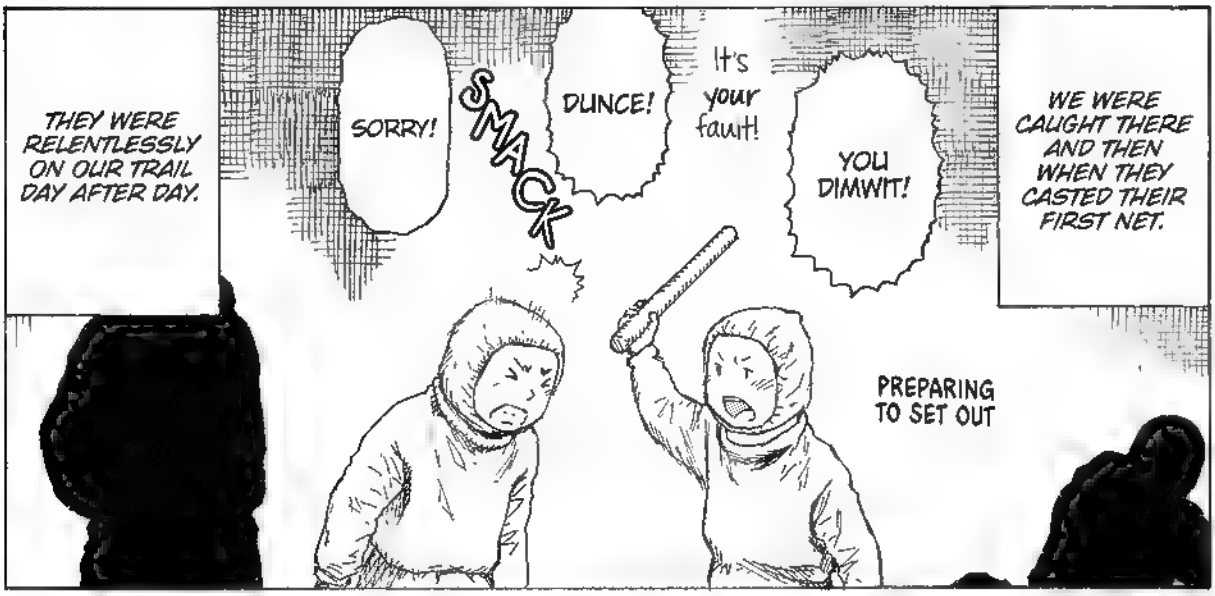
IN THE MOST STARTLING MANNER, THEY CAME OUT FROM THE GROUND JUST LIKE THAT.


IKEMITSU AND COMPANY CUT OPEN A NEW ESCAPE PATH WITHIN THE UNEXPLORED RUINS.
CALL IT A DRAGNET IF YOU WANT, BUT IT'S FULL OF HOLES.
AFTER ALL, THEY ARE LOW ON PERSONNEL EVERYWHERE
...ALL WHILE ELUDING THE INVESTIGATIVE EYES OF THE SECURITY POLICE.
We managed to make it out in such a short time thanks to Setogiwa's crew working hard at opening up this secret route.

THEY ALSO STARTED TO RECEIVE AN INCREASING FLOW OF INTEL ON THE STRATEGIC HAMLET'S ARMY AND SECURITY POLICE, AFTER IT HAD BEEN SO ABRUPTLY CUT OFF FROM BEFORE.

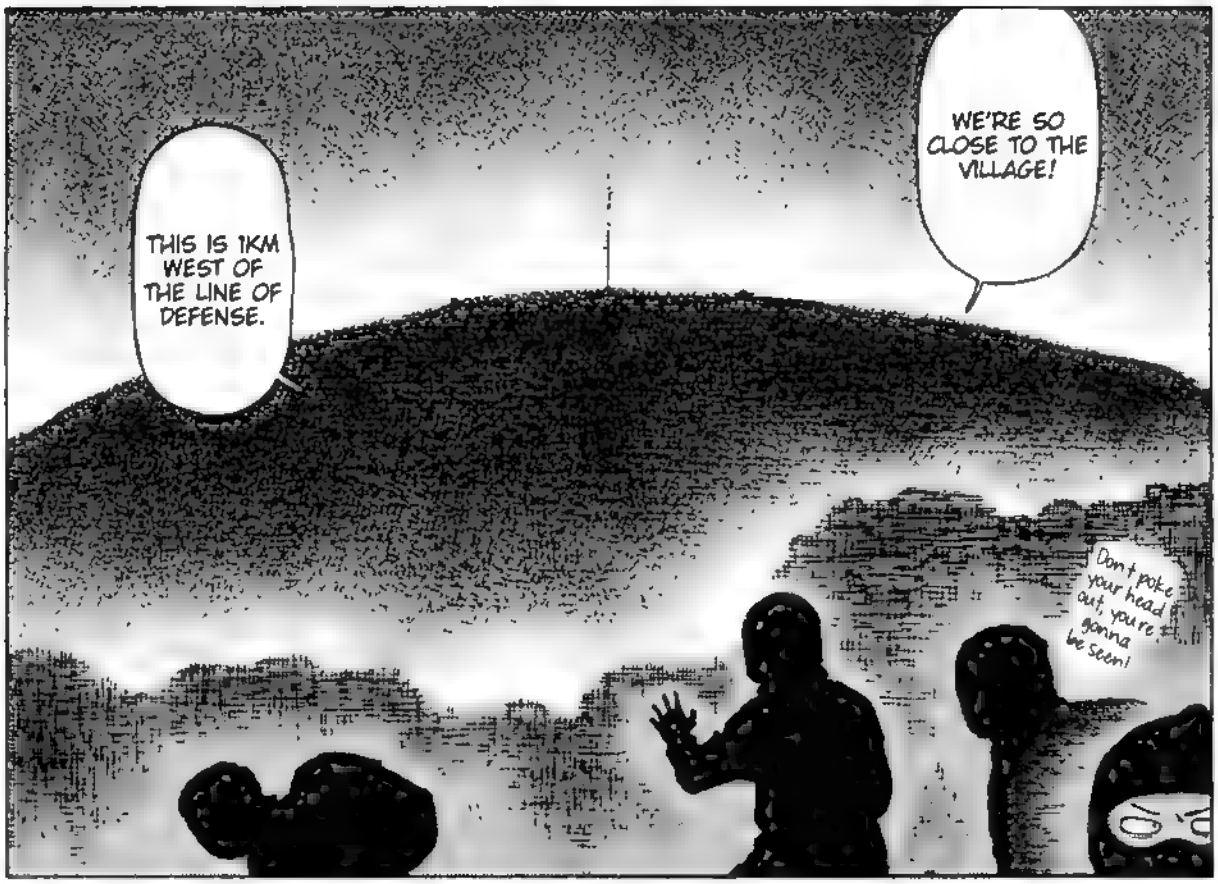
MEANWHILE, THE HAMLET HQ PREDICTED THAT THE BASE OF THE TERRORISTS WHO PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED THE SOUTHERN ARMY AIR RAID MUST

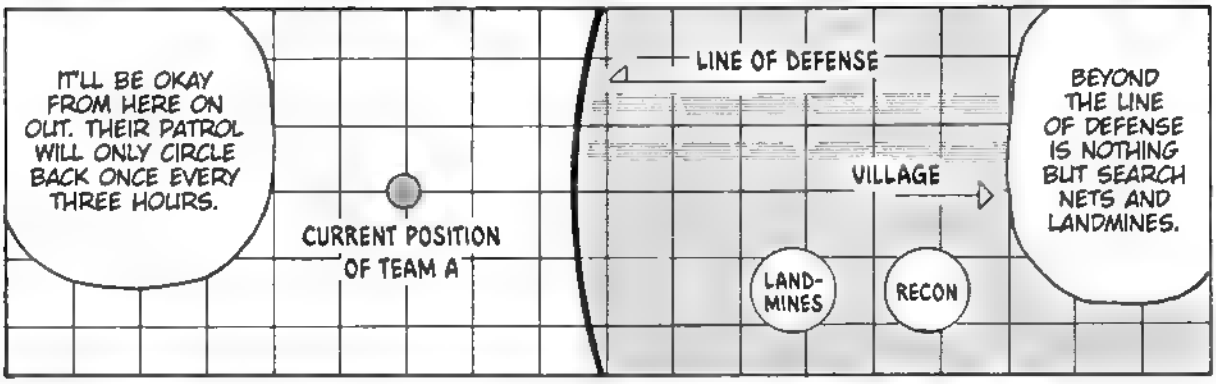
THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WAS THE CLEANUP OF THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY BY PROCEEDING TO CRACK DOWN ON THE ENTIRE

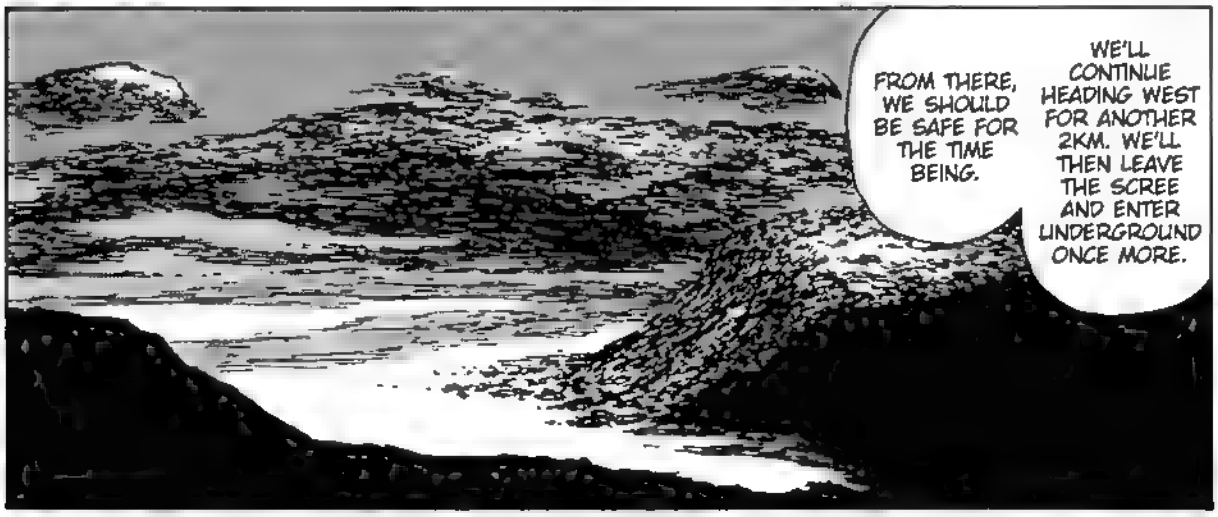

THEY WERE RELENTLESSLY ON OUR TRAIL DAY AFTER DAY.
SORRY!
SMACK
DUNCE!
It's your fault!
YOU DIMWIT!
WE WERE CAUGHT THERE AND THEN WHEN THEY CASTED THEIR FIRST NET.
PREPARING TO SET OUT

It took us three days to find the route.
Eek...
Trace my footsteps.
From here onwards, This is the minefield we talked about
WHISPER
WHISPER
PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY HAD YET TO FIND SOLID EVIDENCE FROM THE LEFT-BEHIND ARTICLES.
HOWEVER, SURPRISINGLY, THE ENEMIES DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE WERE THE TERRORISTS.

WE FIGURE THEY PROBABLY WANT US DEAD OR ALIVE.
BUT SINCE THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT WE ARE VIOLENT PERPETRATORS,


THIS IS 1KM WEST OF THE LINE OF DEFENSE.
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE!
Don't poke your head out, you're gonna be seen!


IT'LL BE OKAY FROM HERE ON OUT. THEIR PATROL WILL ONLY CIRCLE BACK ONCE EVERY THREE HOURS.
CURRENT POSITION OF TEAM A
LINE OF DEFENSE
VILLAGE
LAND-MINES
RECON
BEYOND THE LINE OF DEFENSE IS NOTHING BUT SEARCH NETS AND LANDMINES.


FROM THERE, WE SHOULD BE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING.
WE'LL CONTINUE HEADING WEST FOR ANOTHER 2KM. WE'LL THEN LEAVE THE SCREE AND ENTER UNDERGROUND ONCE MORE.

KOIZUMI IS FULLY RECOVERED, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO HANG AROUND ANY LONGER.

Seriously, at the most crucial moment

I... blacked out... I must have caused you a lot of trouble, Miss Taiko. So sorry.

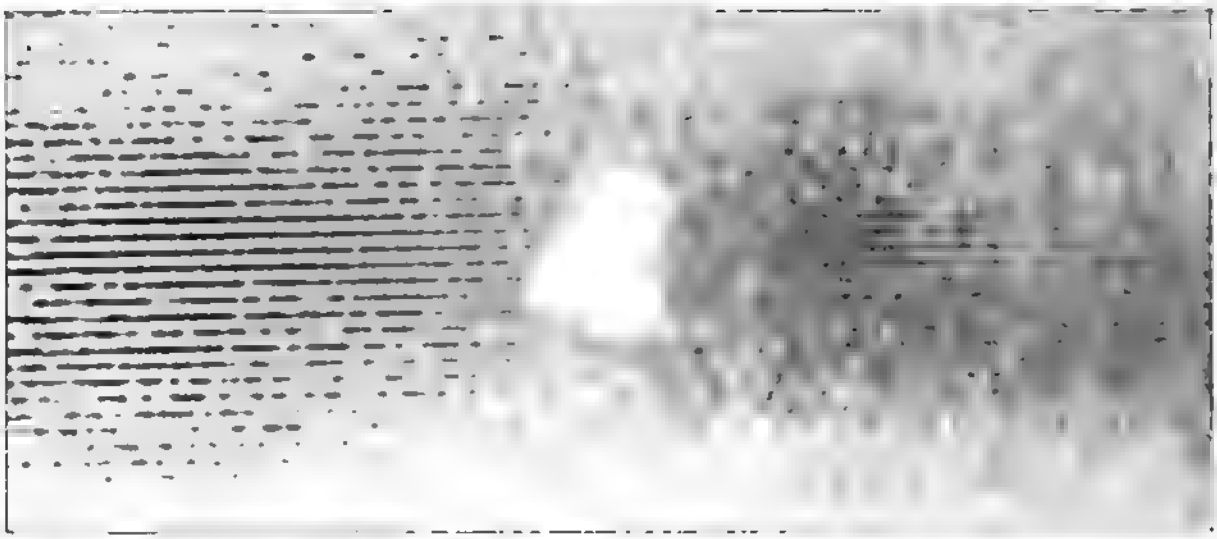
IT WILL TAKE A MONTH.

What the hell, the line of defense that was impenetrable two months ago, just like that.

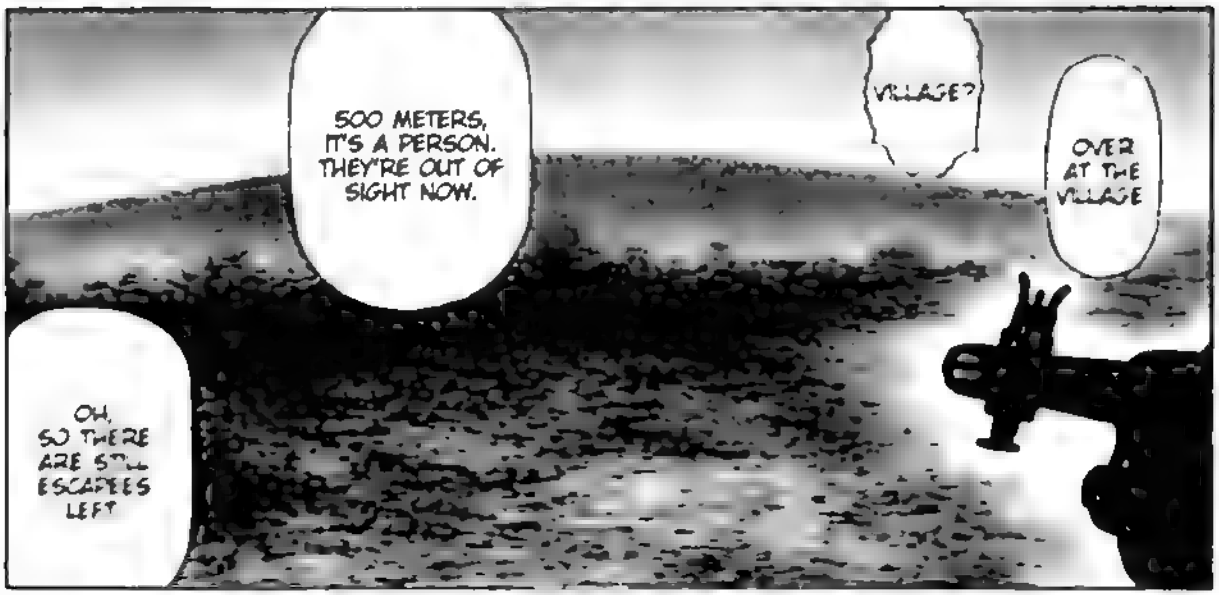
IT'S A MERE 2KM, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IF WE CAN GET BACK INTO THE TUNNEL.

LOWER YOUR HEADS.
DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
I KNOW.

PEEK



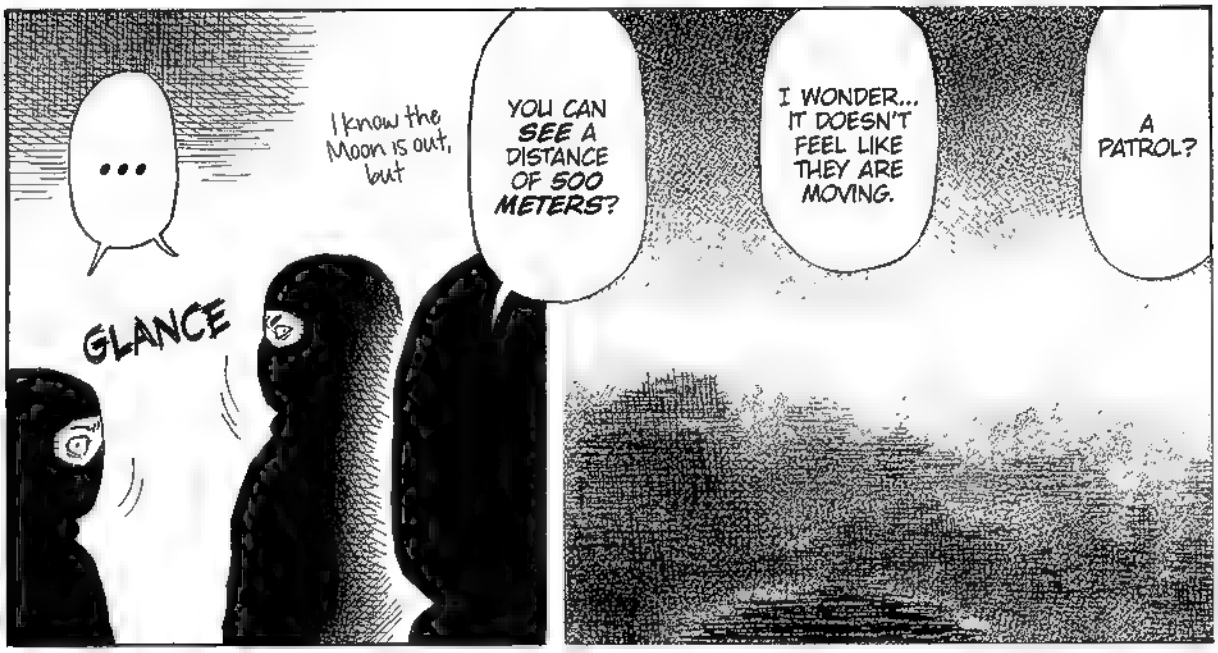
HM?
SOME-THING'S MOVING.
OVER THERE.

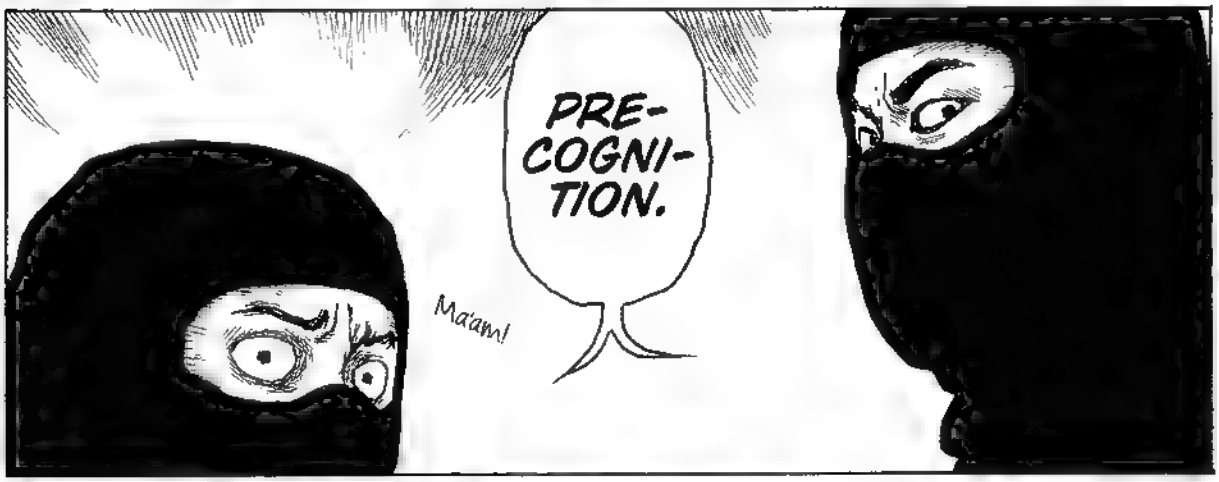

500 METERS, IT'S A PERSON. THEY'RE OUT OF SIGHT NOW.
VILLAGE?
OVER AT THE VILLAGE
OH, SO THERE ARE STILL ESCAPEES LEFT

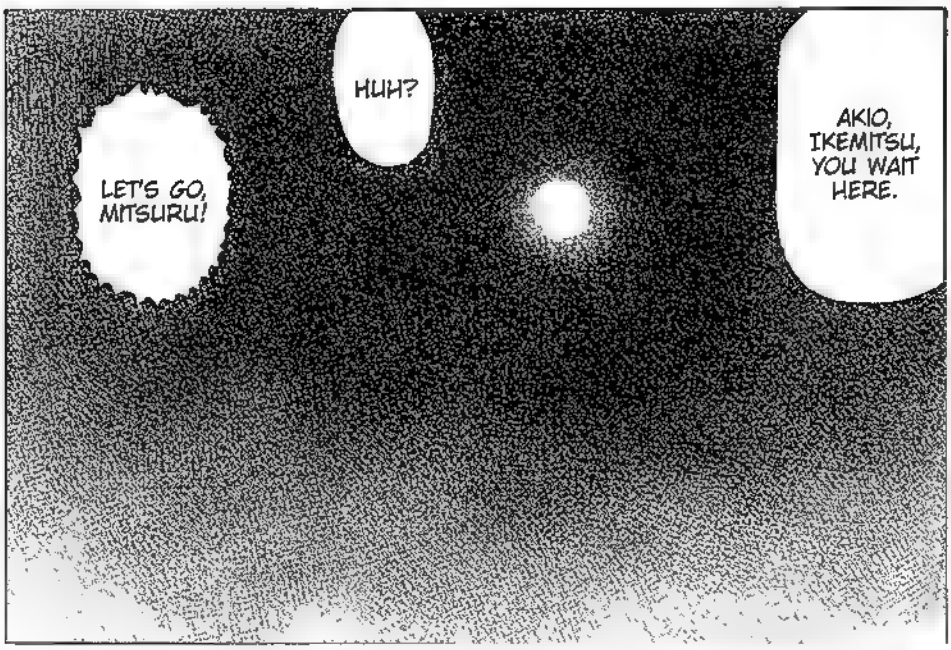
H-HOS-TILES!
That freaked me out.
WHAT'S WRONG?

THEY ARE PROBABLY USING NIGHT-VISION!
...
If, If they saw, they would've been shooting at us!
SHIT

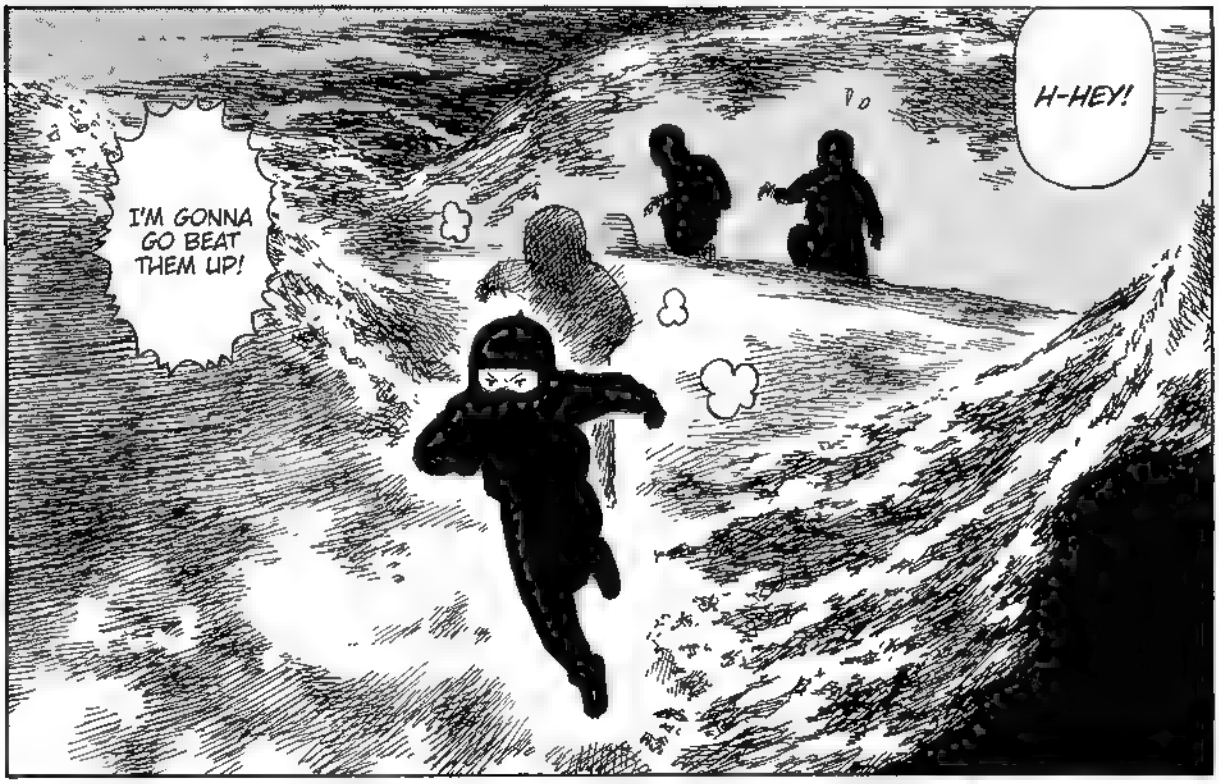
EYH!
TWO OF THEM. 502 METERS FROM HERE.


...
I know the Moon is out, but
YOU CAN SEE A DISTANCE OF 500 METERS?
GLANCE
I WONDER... IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THEY ARE MOVING.
A PATROL?

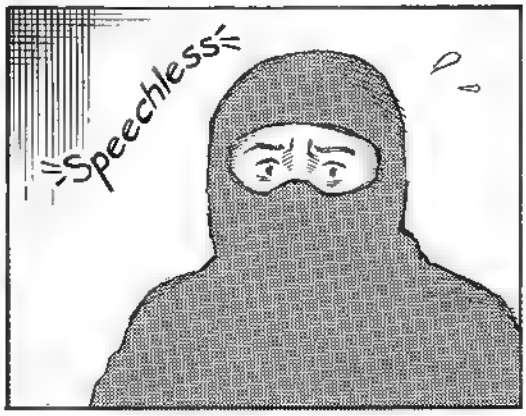

PRE-COGNI-TION.
Ma'am!

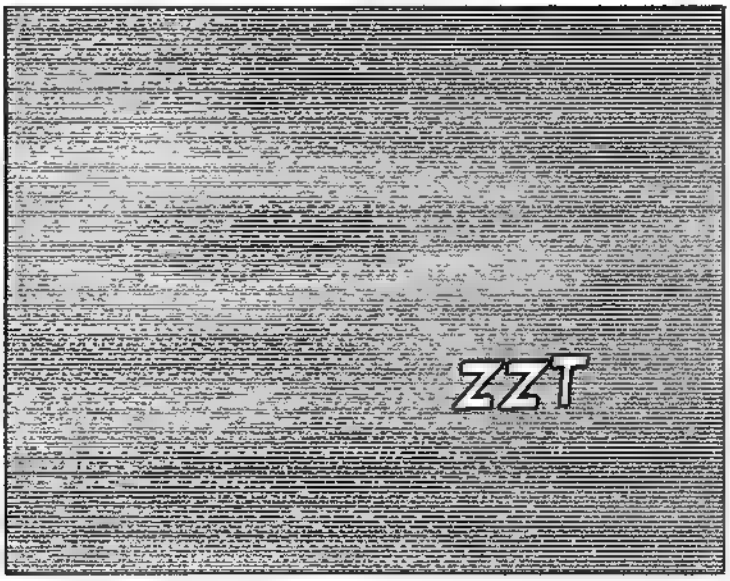

HUH?
LET'S GO, MITSURU!
AKIO, IKEMITSU, YOU WAIT HERE.

...
How troublesome

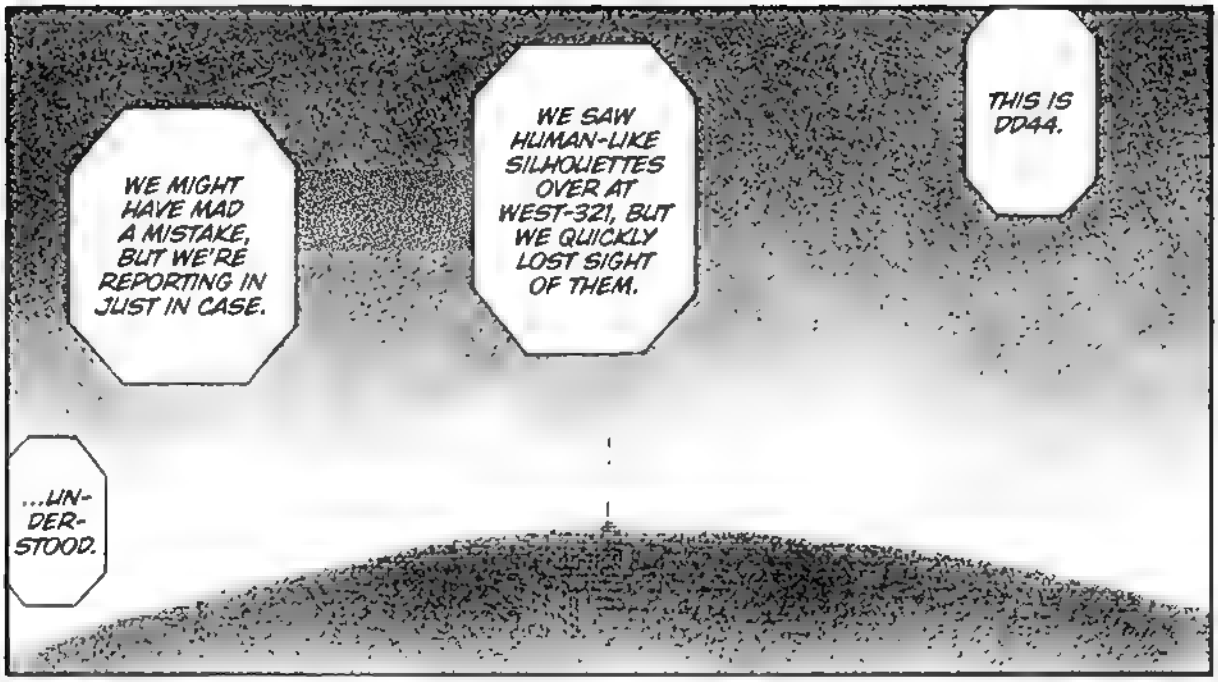

I'M GONNA GO BEAT THEM UP!
H-HEY!

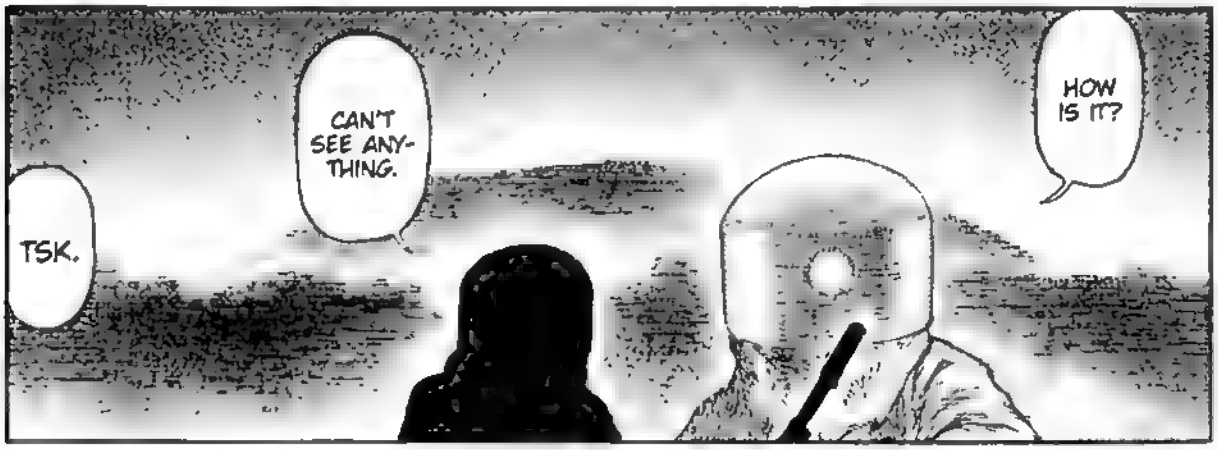
She's taking a huge detour around them
I see. In order to avoid the enemy line of sight.
Are you sure about this?
Hmpf


Speechless

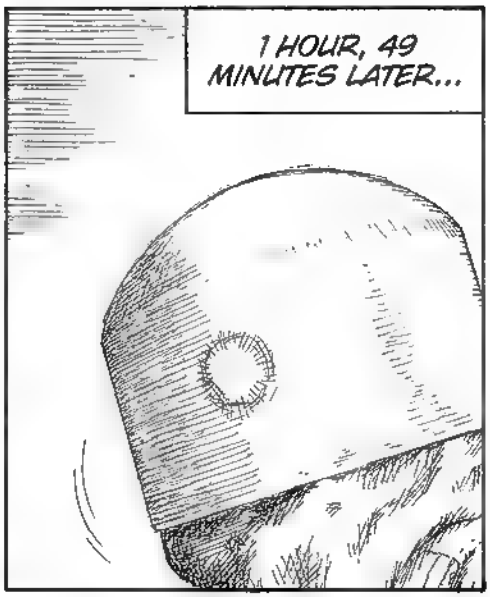

ZZT

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.


THIS IS D044.
WE SAW HUMAN-LIKE SILHOUETTES OVER AT WEST-321, BUT WE QUICKLY LOST SIGHT OF THEM.
WE MIGHT HAVE MAD A MISTAKE, BUT WE'RE REPORTING IN JUST IN CASE.
...UN-DER-STOOD.


HOW IS IT?
CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.
TSK.

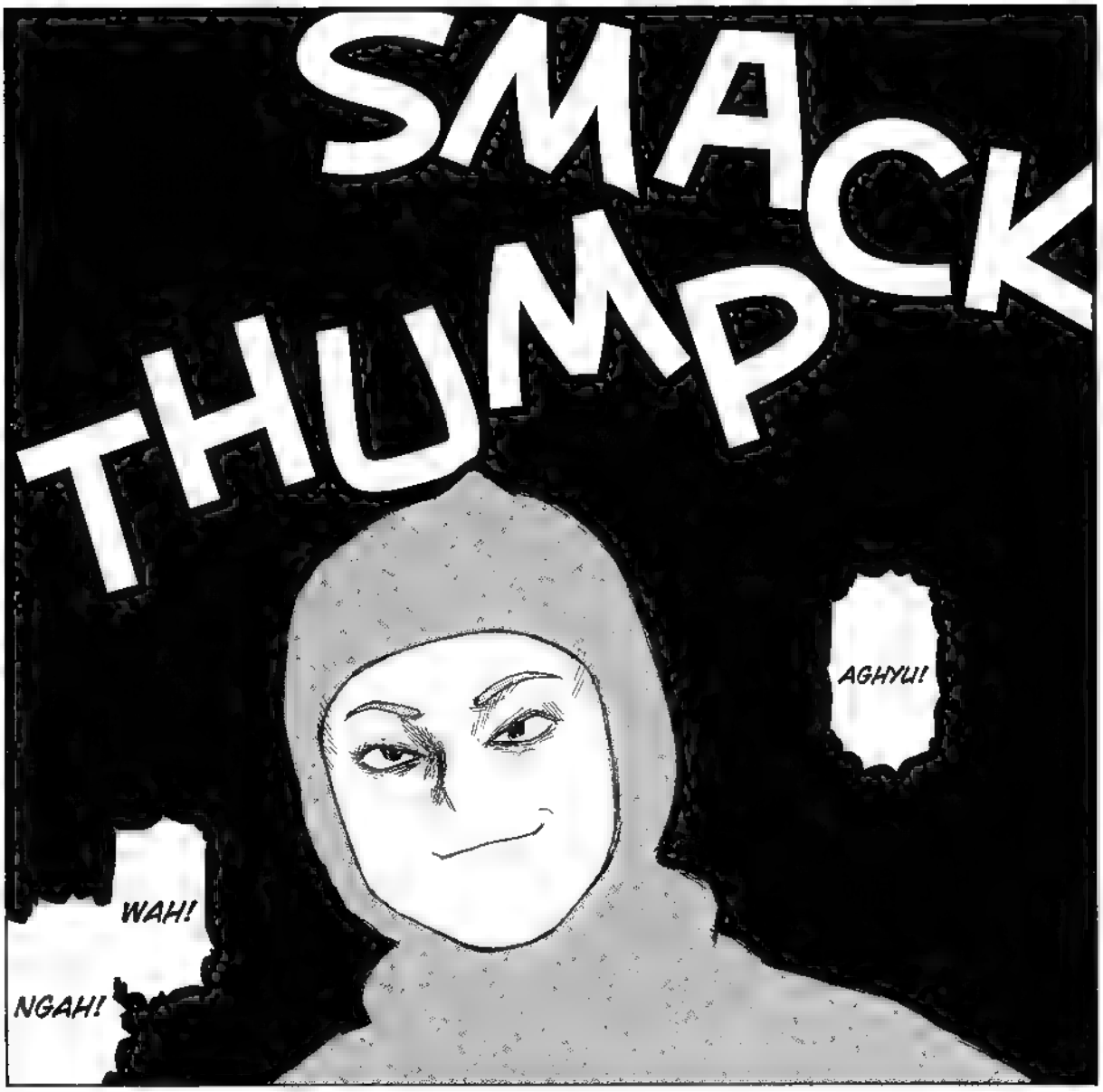
HMPH.


1 HOUR, 49 MINUTES LATER...

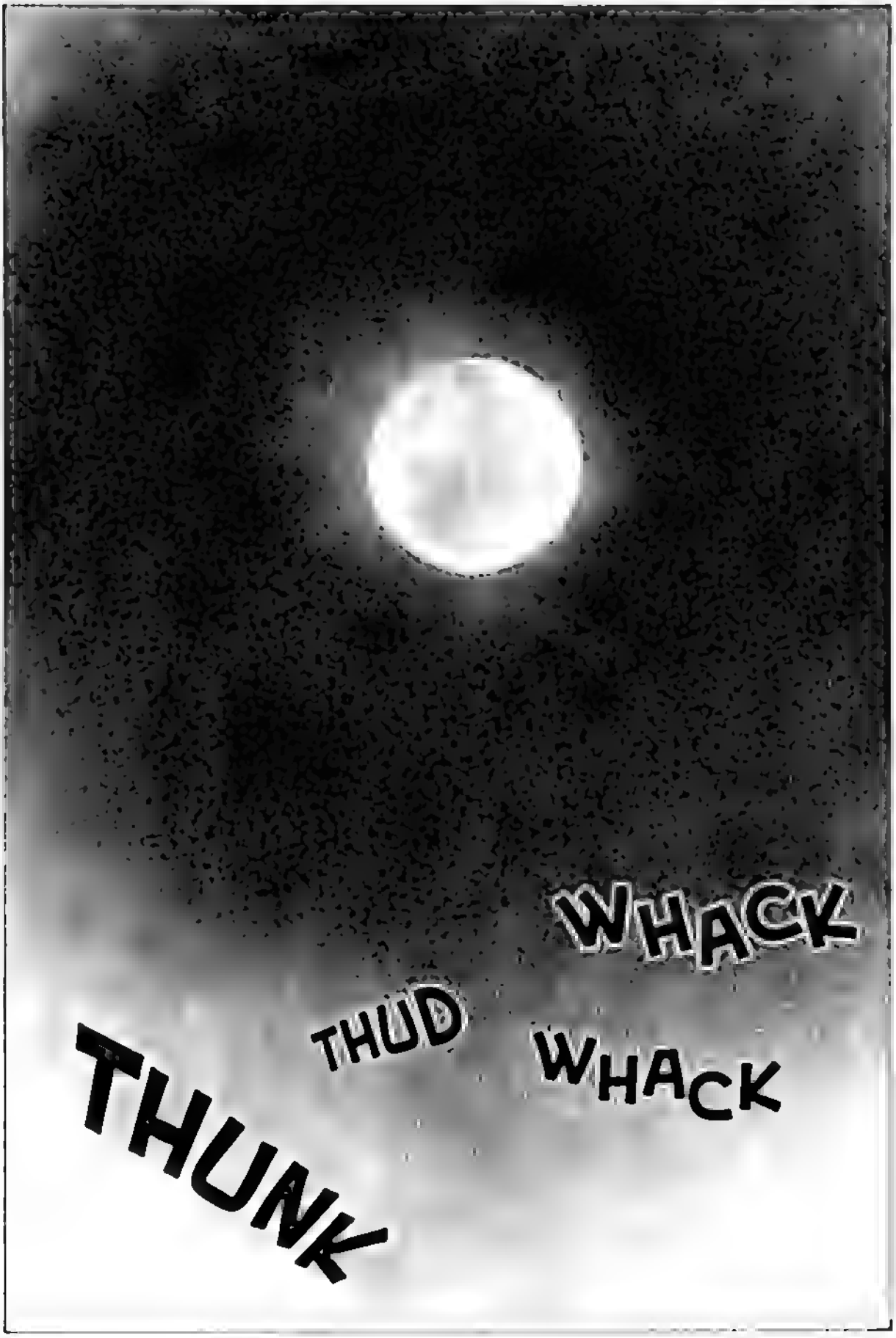
WOAH!
BA-DUMP
WAH!
SLOCK

FSSHHH
What are you doing?
You a grunt?
THAT SCARED ME!
Since when?
I didn't sense you at all.
WHAT THE FUCK?

MENACE

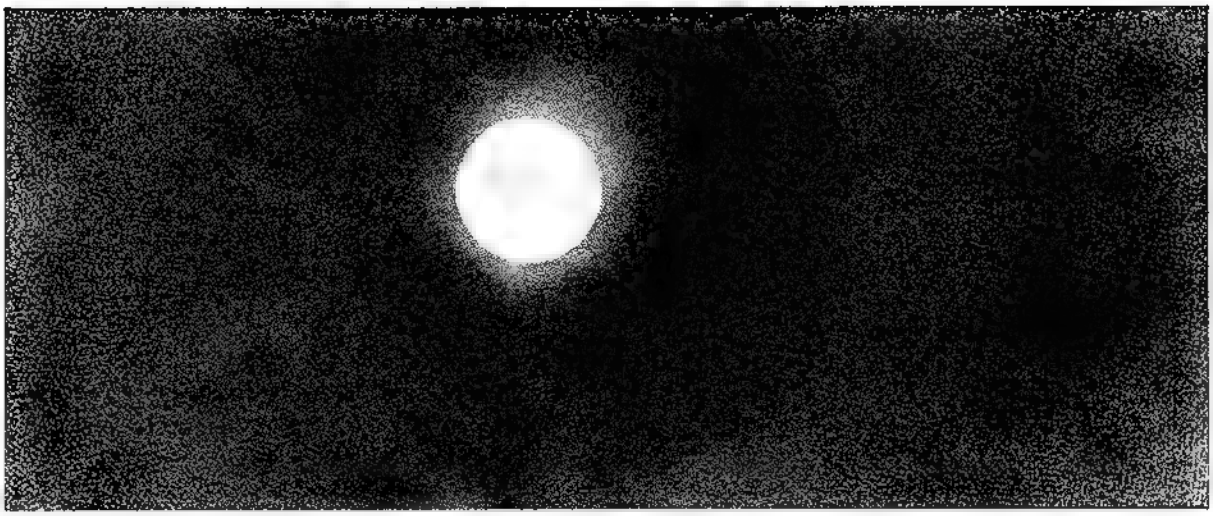

SMACK
THUMP
AGHYU!
WAH!
NGAH!

SMASH


WHACK
THUD
WHACK
THUNK

VOL. 113

There we go!



COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE IT MORE QUIETLY?

WHISPER
WHISPER

HEY, I COULD HEAR YOU FROM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE.

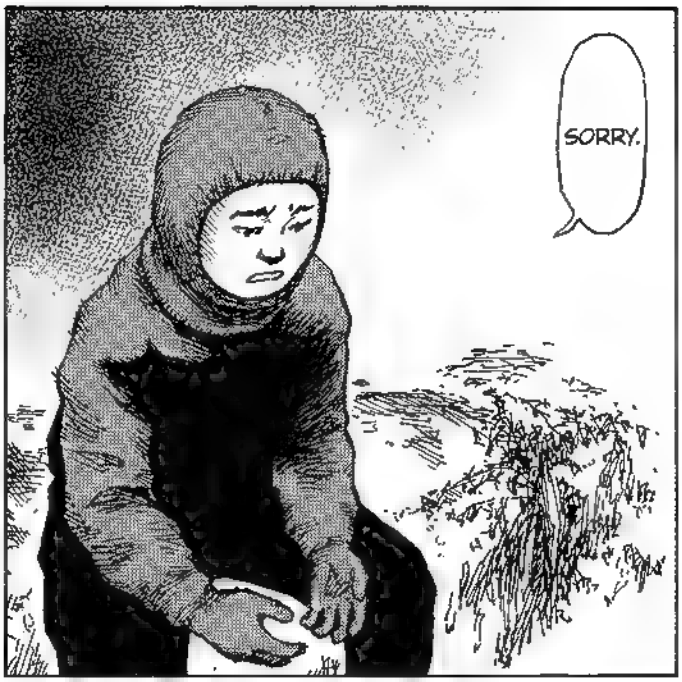
I'M... I'M SORRY.

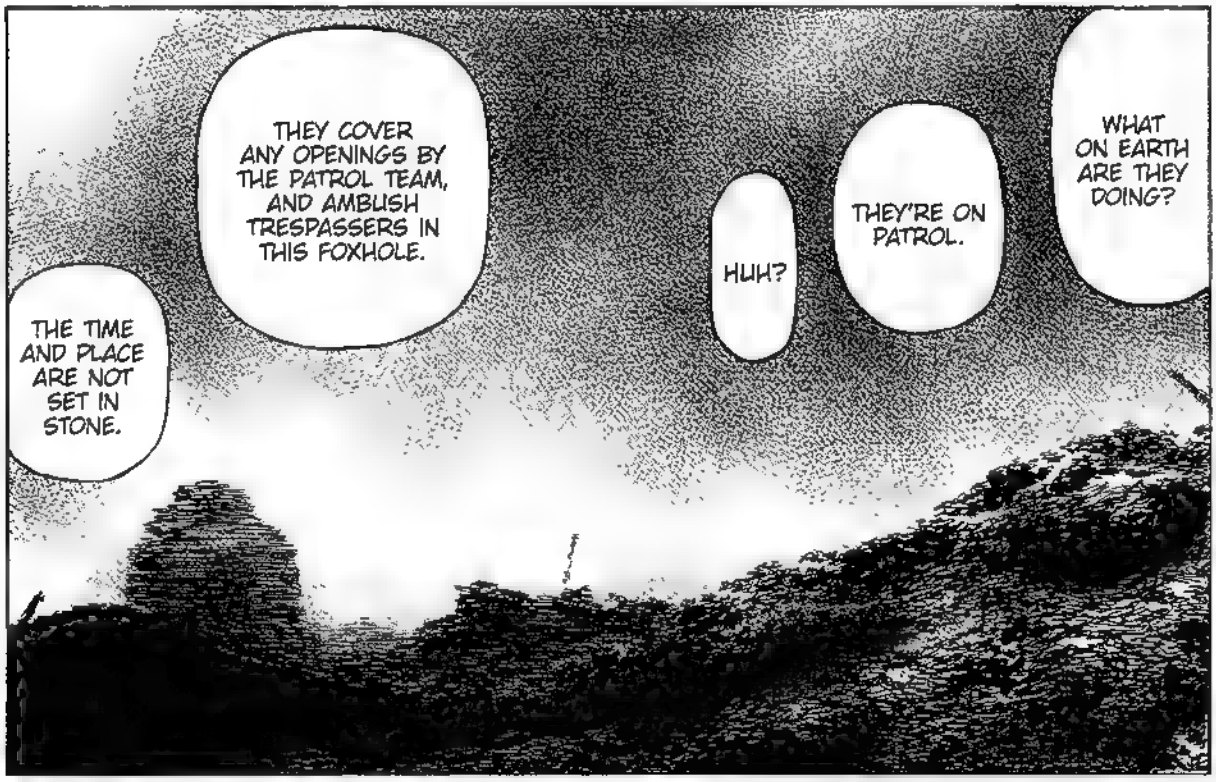
Hnnn
Hnnn

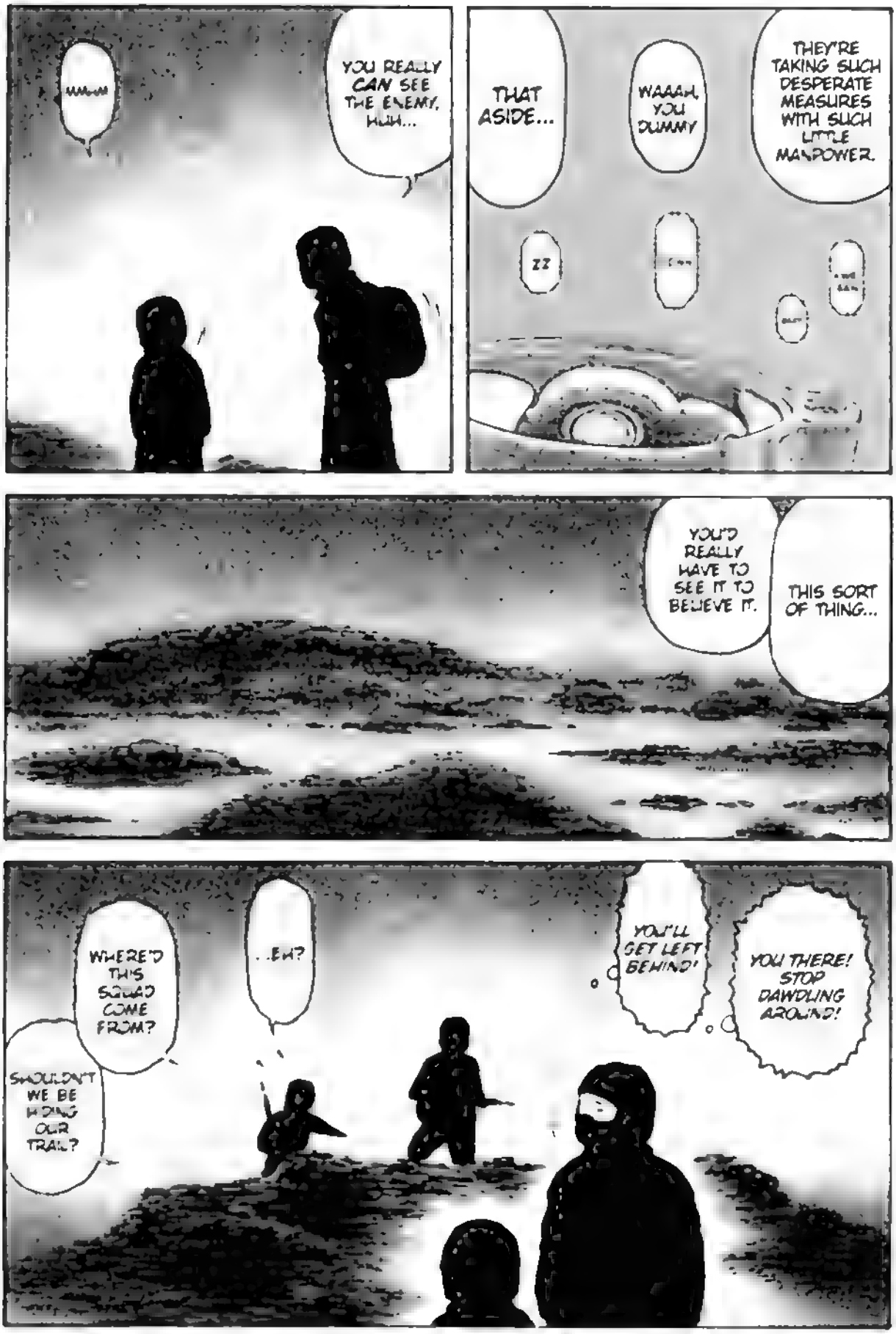
Mine!

Ughhh

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


SORRY.

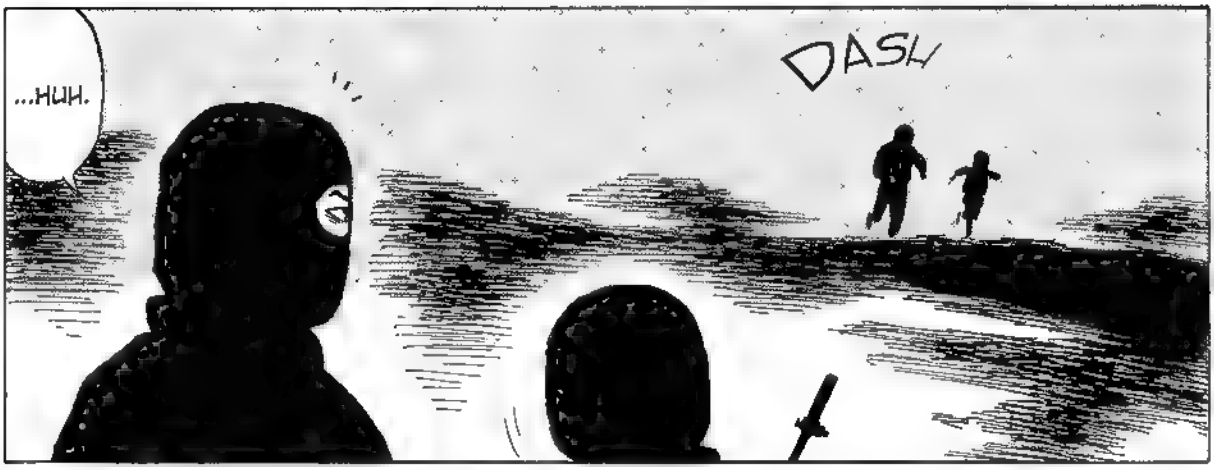

THEY COVER ANY OPENINGS BY THE PATROL TEAM, AND AMBUSH TRESPASSERS IN THIS FOXHOLE.
THE TIME AND PLACE ARE NOT SET IN STONE.
HUH?
THEY'RE ON PATROL.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY DOING?


MMM
YOU REALLY CAN SEE THE ENEMY, HUH...
THAT ASIDE...
WAAAH, YOU DUMMY
THEY'RE TAKING SUCH DESPERATE MEASURES WITH SUCH LITTLE MANPOWER.
ZZ
YOU'D REALLY HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT.
THIS SORT OF THING...
WHERE'D THIS SQUAD COME FROM?
..EH?
YOU'LL GET LEFT BEHIND!
YOU THERE! STOP DAWDLING AROUND!
SHOULDN'T WE BE HIDING OUR TRAIL?

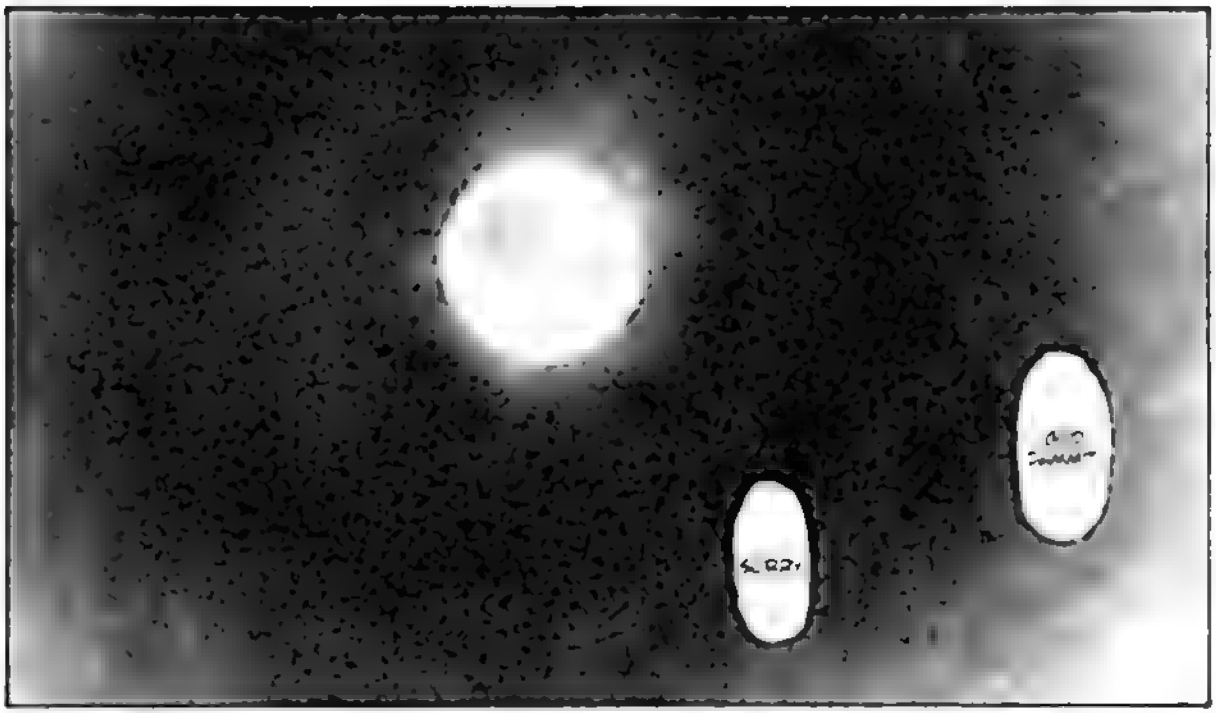
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BUY SOME TIME...
...WAIT, NO. ACTUALLY...
Hmph.

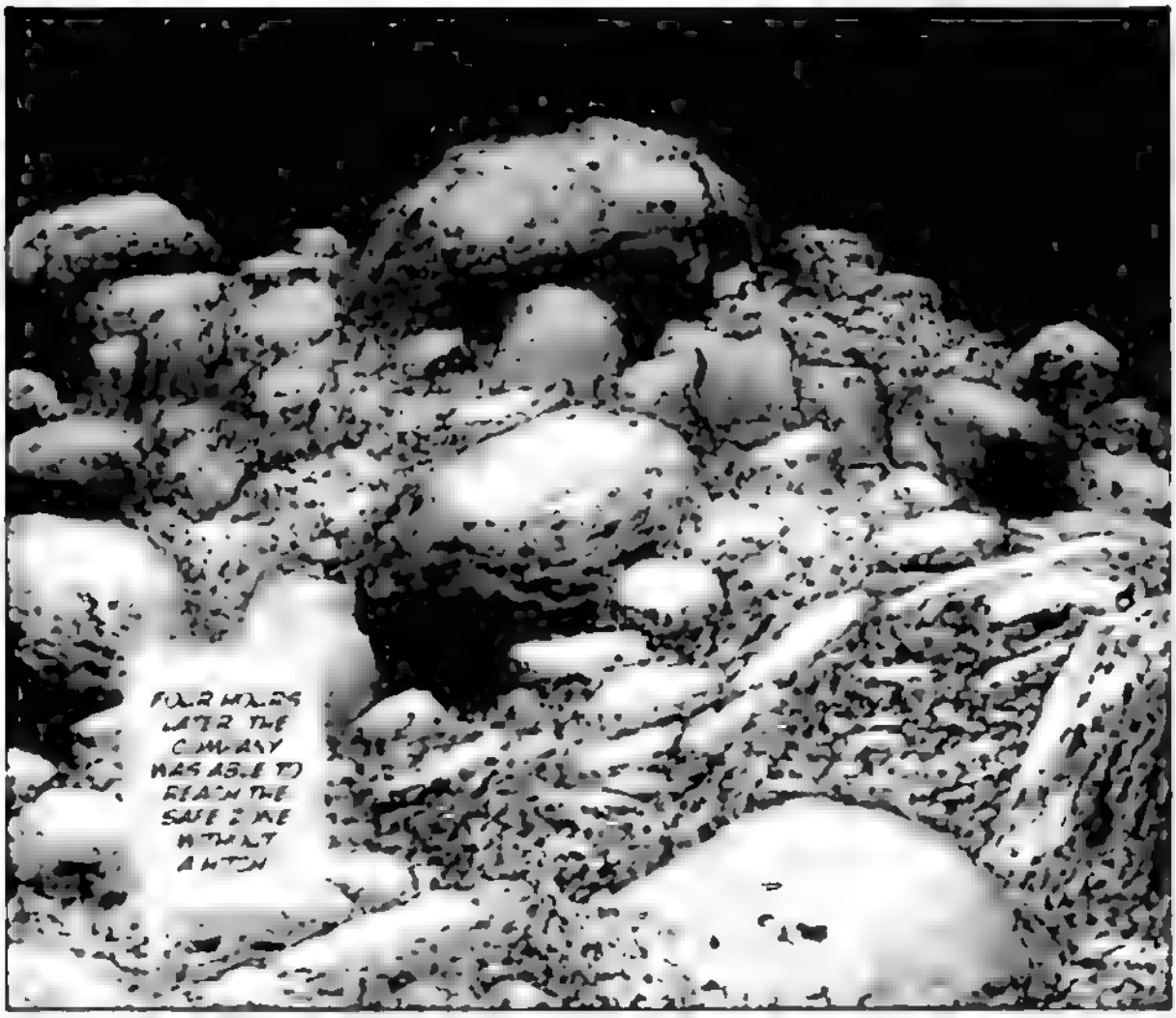
EITHER WAY, THERE'S GOING TO BE A HUGE FUSS WHEN THEY FIND THEIR OWN MISSING.

THEY'LL CHASE US LIKE DEMONS AGAIN!
IF WE GET FOUND...

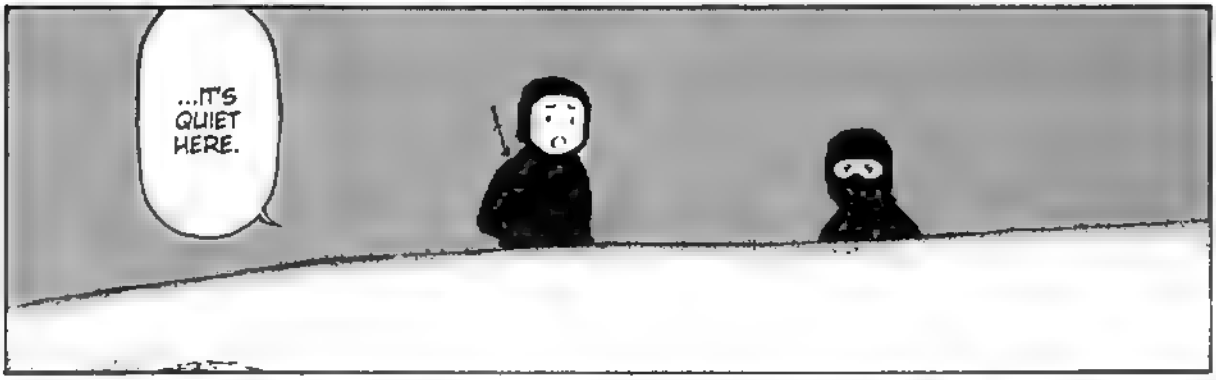

...HUH.
DASH

WE'RE GETTING LEFT BEHIND!
Waaah!
See what I mean?
You chatted away for to long!
THOSE GUYS!
RUSH




FOUR HOURS LATER THE COMPANY WAS ABLE TO REACH THE SAFE ZONE WITHOUT A WITCH

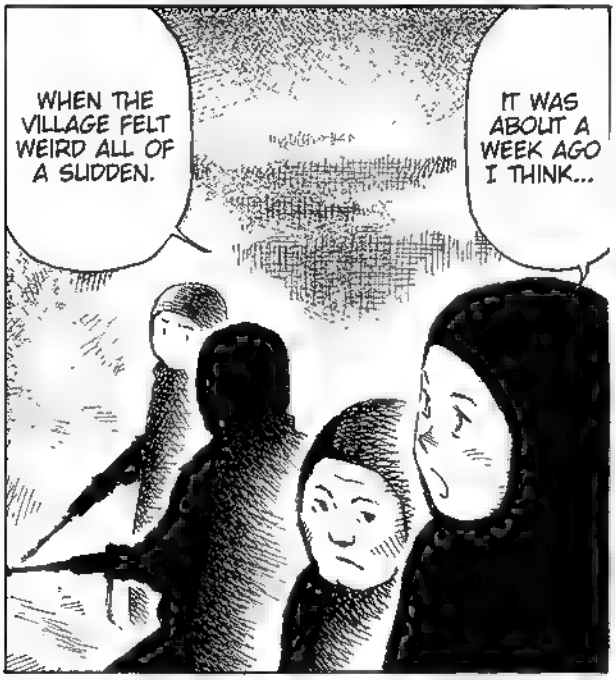
TAKE A BREAK.
WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR A GUIDE.

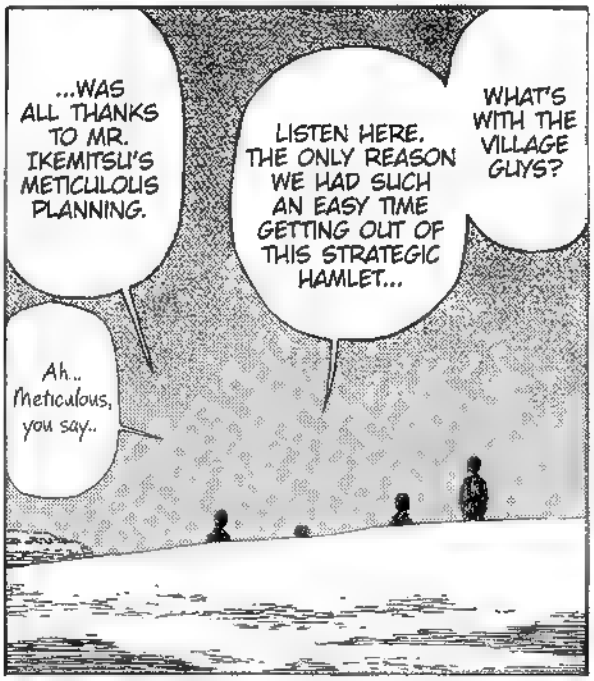

...IT'S QUIET HERE.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THEM ON OUR TAIL,
BUT WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST THEM WELL.

FOCUS
FOCUS
Searching for the enemy!

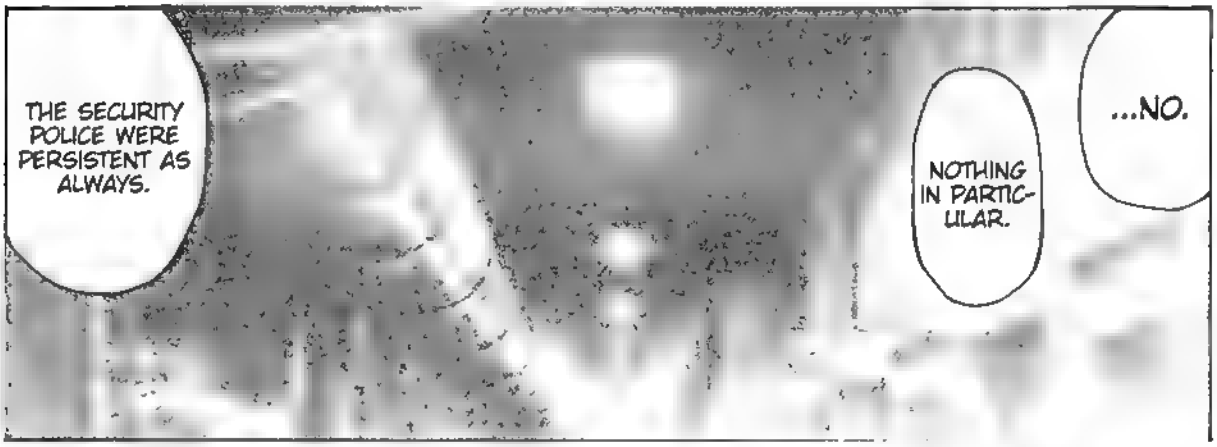
THERE ARE NONE.
CAN YOU SENSE THE ENEMY?
HOW IS IT?


WHEN THE VILLAGE FELT WEIRD ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IT WAS ABOUT A WEEK AGO I THINK...


...WAS ALL THANKS TO MR. IKEMITSU'S METICULOUS PLANNING.
LISTEN HERE. THE ONLY REASON WE HAD SUCH AN EASY TIME GETTING OUT OF THIS STRATEGIC HAMLET...
WHAT'S WITH THE VILLAGE GUYS?
Ah.. Meticulous, you say..

A WEEK AGO...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT THE VILLAGE?

...FELT WEIRD?
THERE WAS A HUGE TINGLING SENSATION IN THE AIR.
BUT THAT DISAPPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN AS IF SOMEBODY TURNED A SWITCH.
TIN-GLING, HUH...


THE SECURITY POLICE WERE PERSISTENT AS ALWAYS.
NOTHING IN PARTIC-ULAR.
...NO.

AAAH.
AND THE MEALS WERE TASTY.
AND I WAS ABLE TO SLEEP WELL.
THAT STUFFINESS WAS GONE.
MAYBE YOU JUST GOT USED TO THAT TINGLING FEELING?
It's been so long since I was able to relax

YOU HAVE A LOT OF NERVE FOR A MIDGET.

YOU ADAPTED TO IT.

...

GOT USED TO IT, HUH?

THAT FIGHT AT THE FOXHOLE JUST NOW,

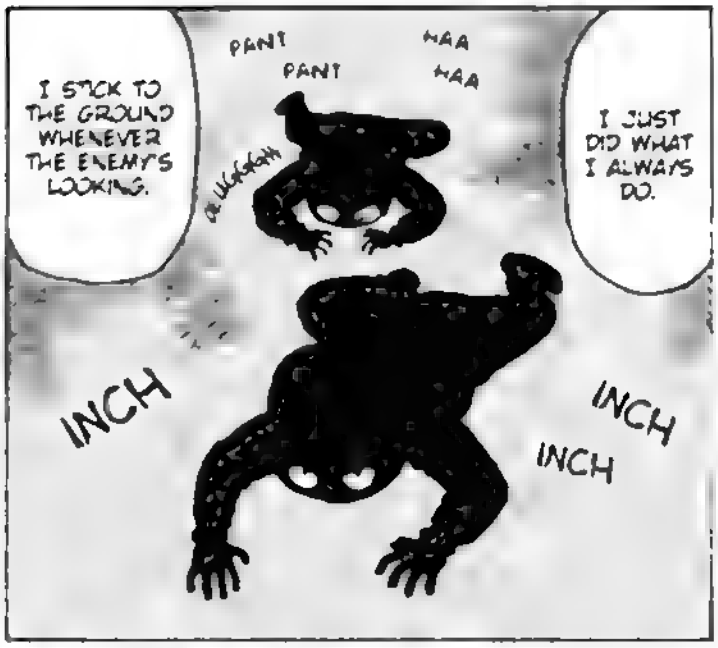
HOWEVER...

SO WE NOW KNOW THAT KOIZUMI CAN SEE THE ENEMY.

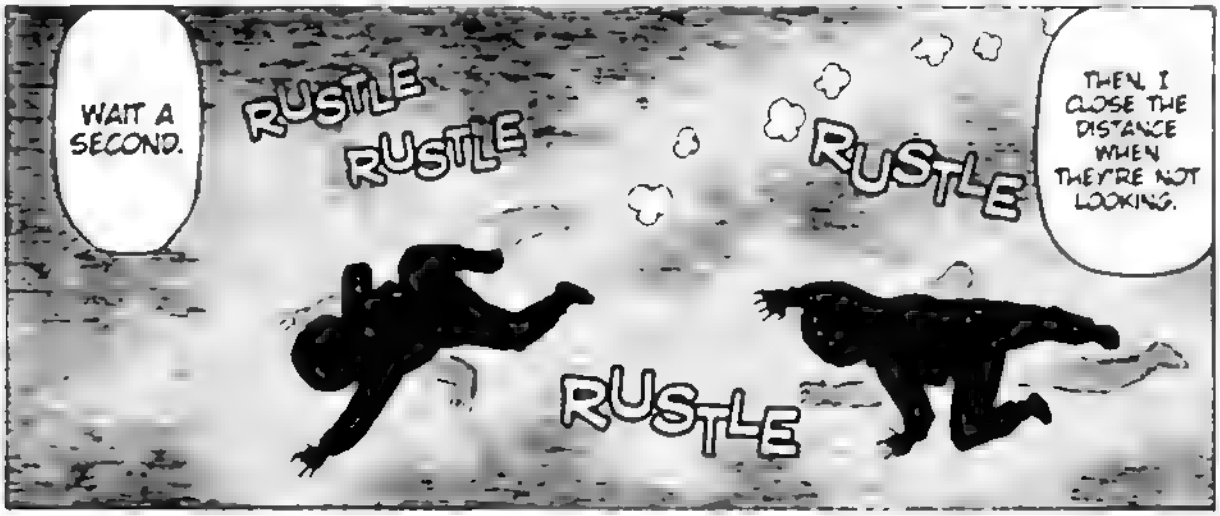
...WHEN THEY'RE ON THE ALERT IN THE DARK.

IT STILL ISN'T EASY TO CLOSE IN ON ENEMIES...

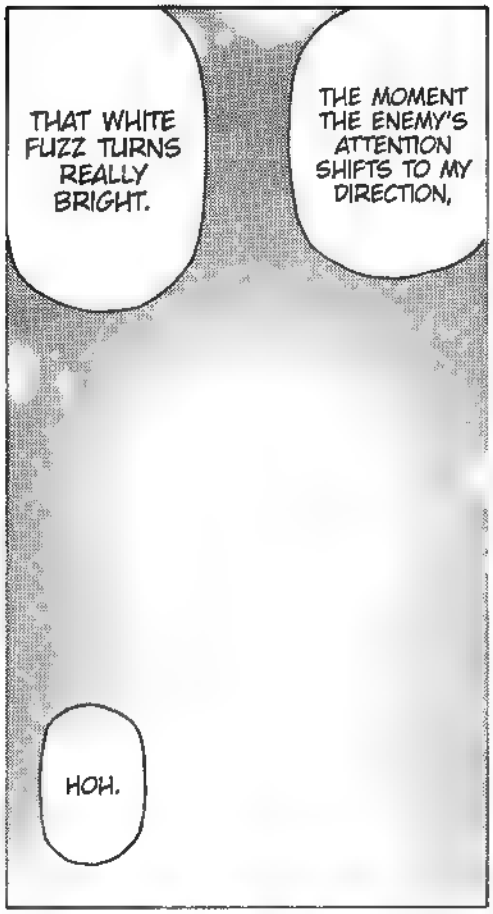
AS MUCH AS YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN SEE THEM,

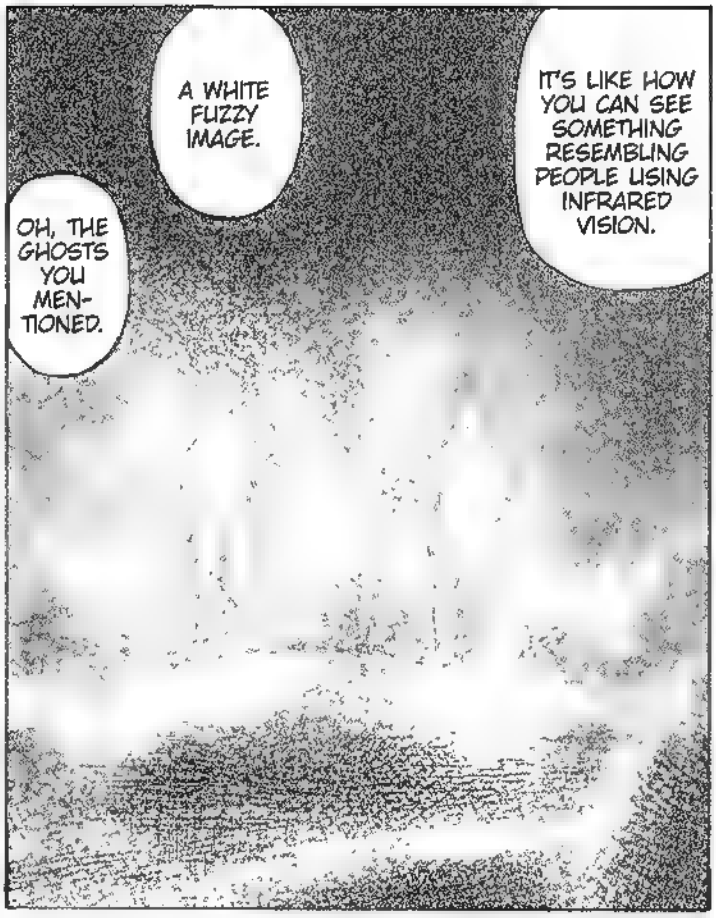

I STICK TO THE GROUND WHENEVER THE ENEMY'S LOOKING.
PANT
PANT
HAA
HAA
I JUST DID WHAT I ALWAYS DO.
INCH
INCH
INCH

WELL,
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
YET YOU CLOSED IN ON THEM JUST LIKE THAT

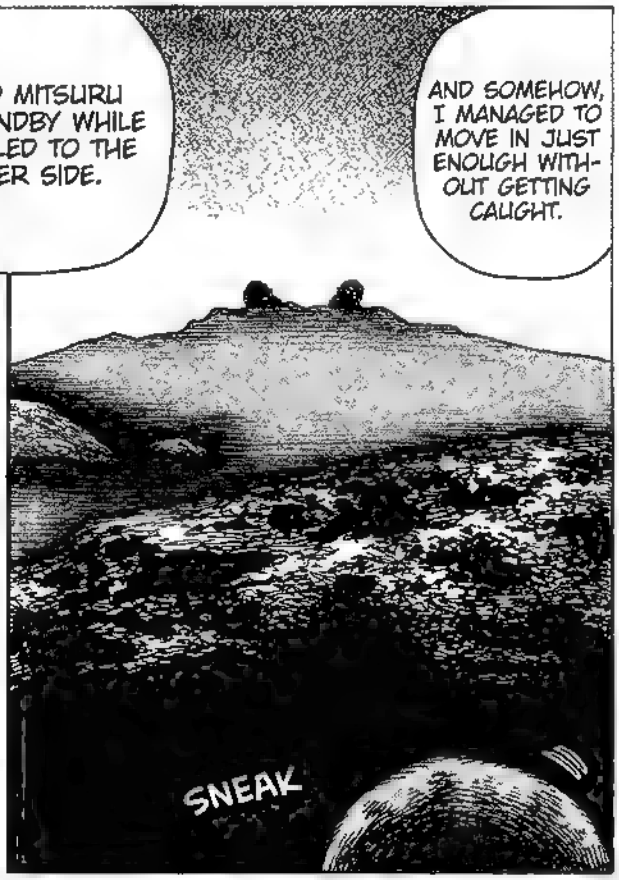

WAIT A SECOND.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THEN I CLOSE THE DISTANCE WHEN THEY'RE NOT LOOKING.

WHEN THEY LOOK MY WAY, YES.
SWEAT
YOU KNOW WHERE THE ENEMY IS LOOKING?


THAT WHITE FUZZ TURNS REALLY BRIGHT.
THE MOMENT THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION SHIFTS TO MY DIRECTION,
HOH.


A WHITE FUZZY IMAGE.
IT'S LIKE HOW YOU CAN SEE SOMETHING RESEMBLING PEOPLE USING INFRARED VISION.
OH, THE GHOSTS YOU MEN-TIONED.

DRAG
DRAG
RUSTLE
SNEAK
SNEAK


I HAD MITSURU ON STANDBY WHILE I CIRCLED TO THE OTHER SIDE.
AND SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO MOVE IN JUST ENOUGH WITH-OUT GETTING CAUGHT.
SNEAK

'Ello there.

IF THEY WERE A LITTLE MORE JUMPY YOU WOULD'VE BEEN SHOT!
THAT CUT IT TOO CLOSE!
Are you stupid?
YOU WERE BAIT?

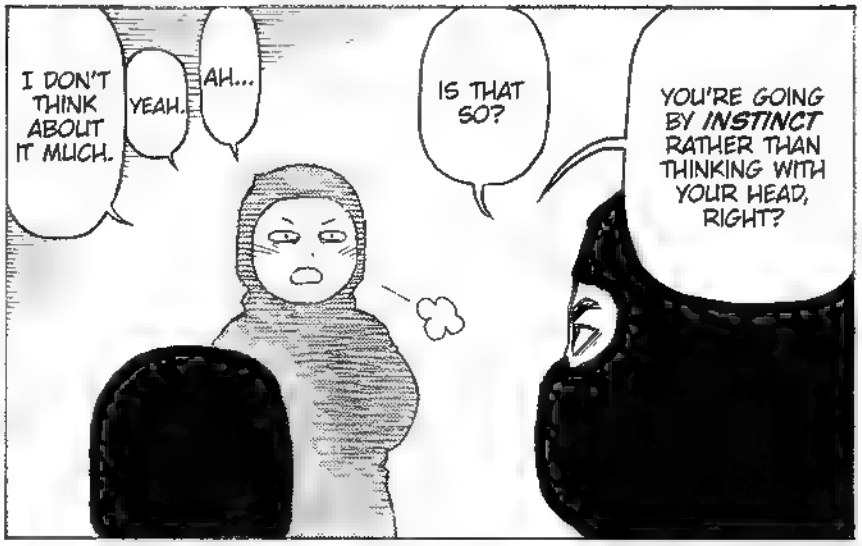
SO I JUMPED OUT IN A PANIC.
EXHAUSTED
I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THAT, TOO.

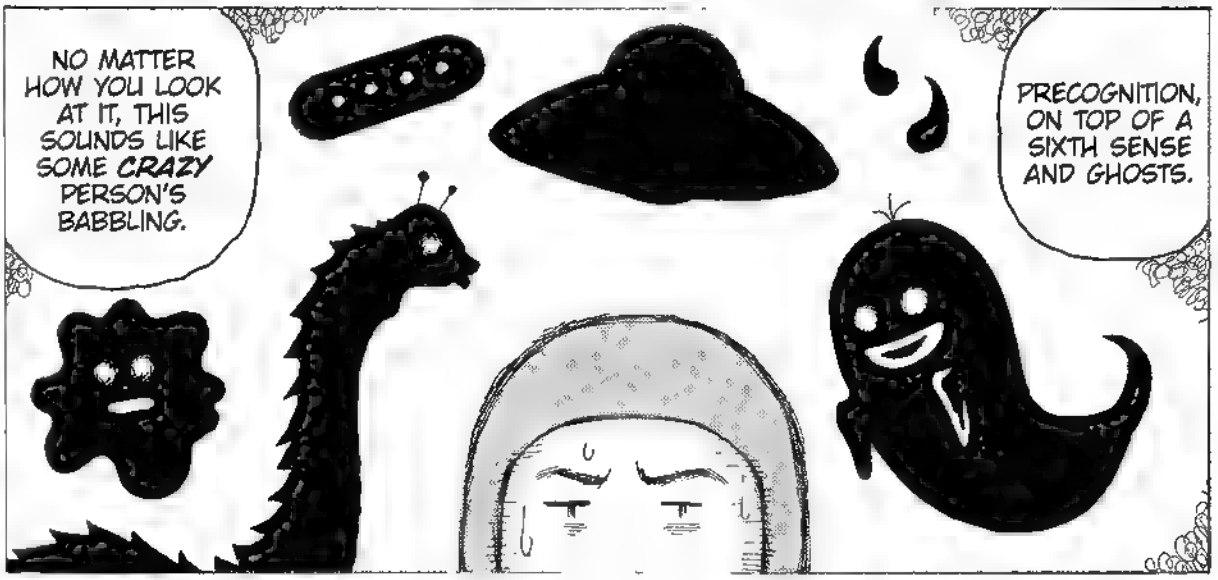
WELL...
He called me stupid!
He called me stupid!
AHH...
Now that I think about it, he has a point, but "stupid" is a bit
LOWER

WHY YOU WEREN'T SHOT.
HUH?
I MIGHT KNOW THE REASON...

NOW THAT YOU SAID IT, THEY WERE BEATEN UP WORSE THAN USUAL.
I hurontied up to 30 percent.
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT... I COULDN'T HOLD BACK AT 10 PERCENT...
I couldn't control it

WHAT IS?
BUT MAN, THIS IS PROBLEM-ATIC.


I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT MUCH.
YEAH.
AH...
IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE GOING BY *INSTINCT* RATHER THAN THINKING WITH YOUR HEAD, RIGHT?

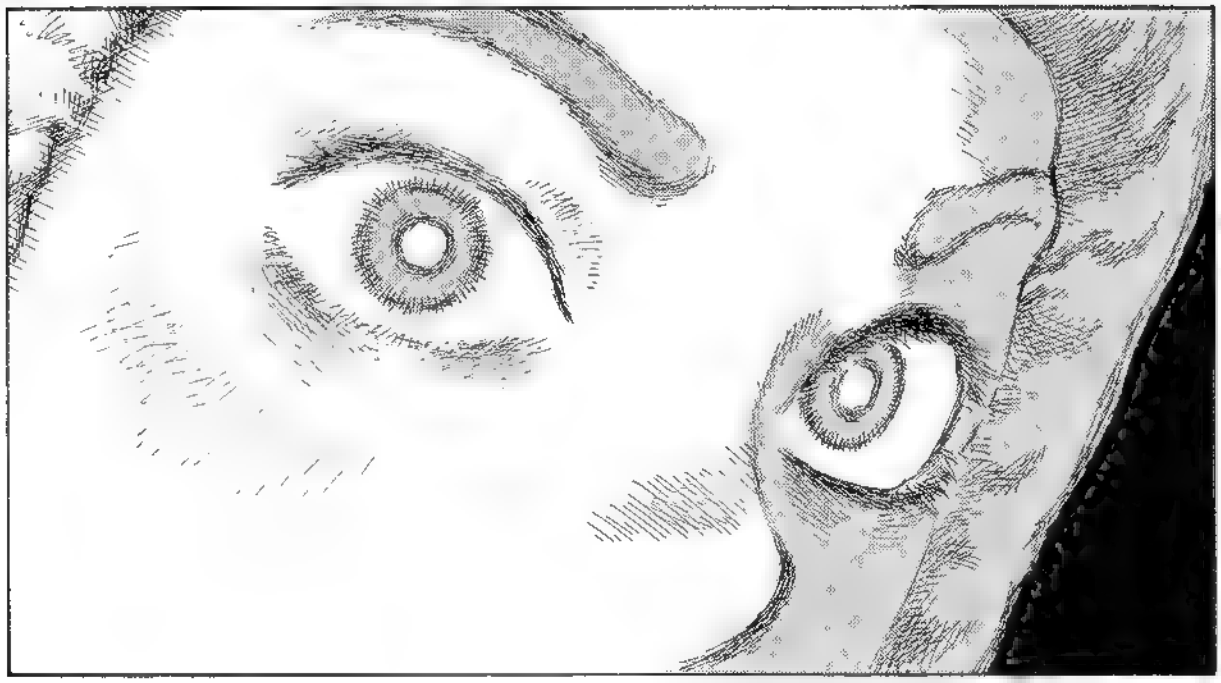

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOME *CRAZY* PERSON'S BABBLING.
PRECOGNITION, ON TOP OF A SIXTH SENSE AND GHOSTS.

OH!

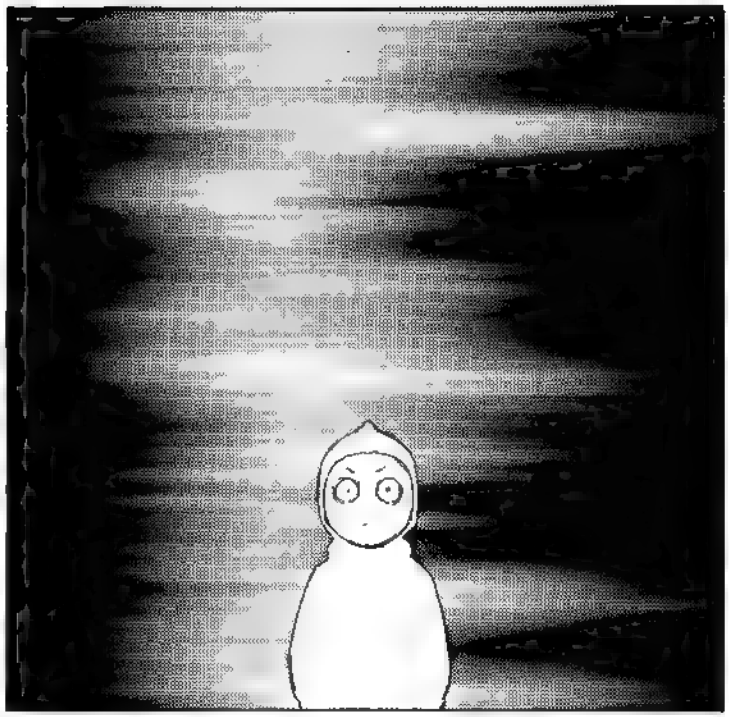
WHO KNOWS
HOW SHOULD I EVEN PUT THIS IN MY REPORT?

LET'S GO!
THEY'RE HERE!

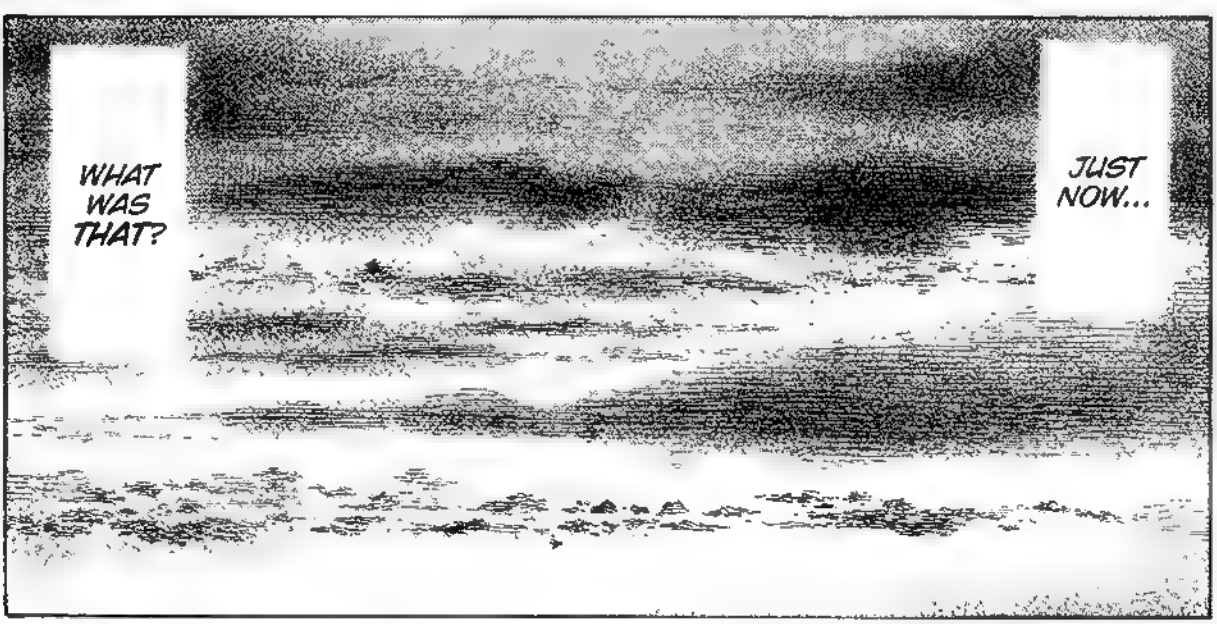
HM?



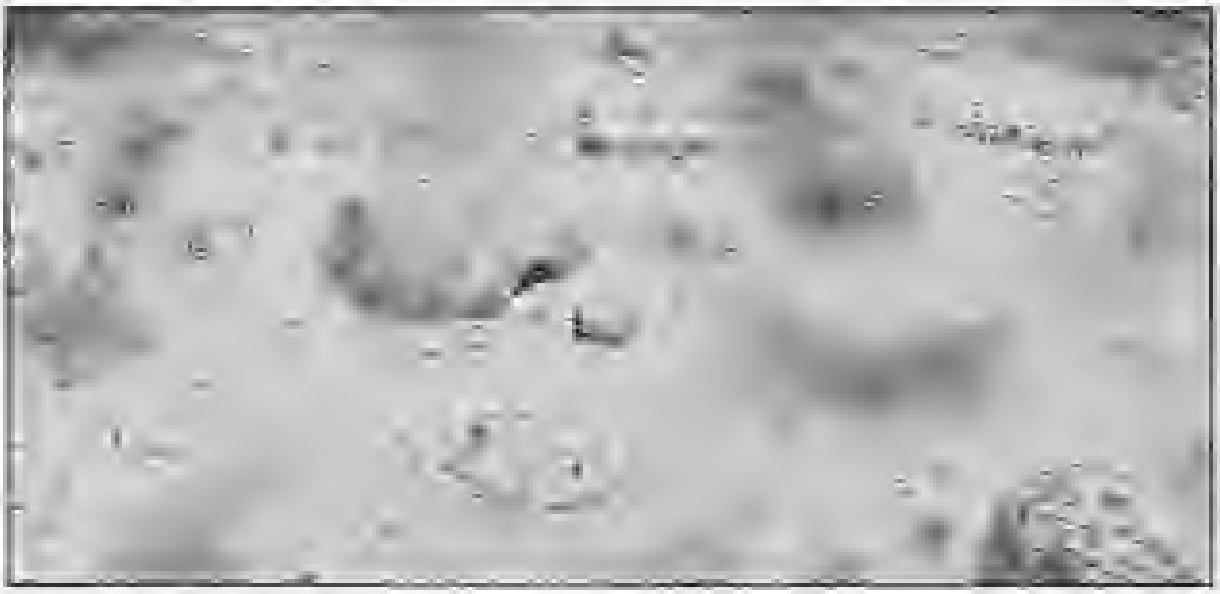
WHAT IS THE MATTER?

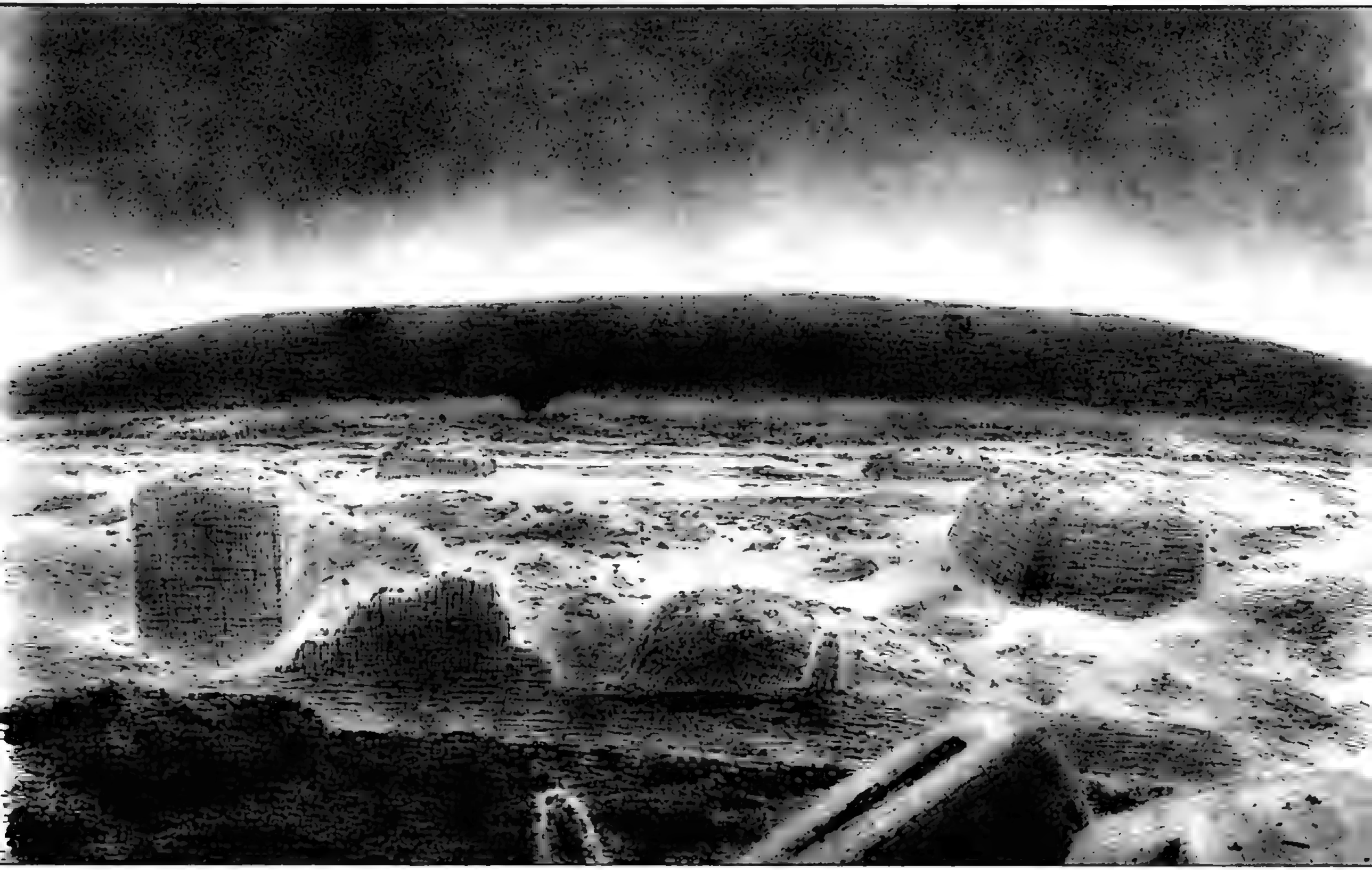


IT'S FINE. THEY AREN'T CLOSE.
IS IT THE ENEMY?
KACHA

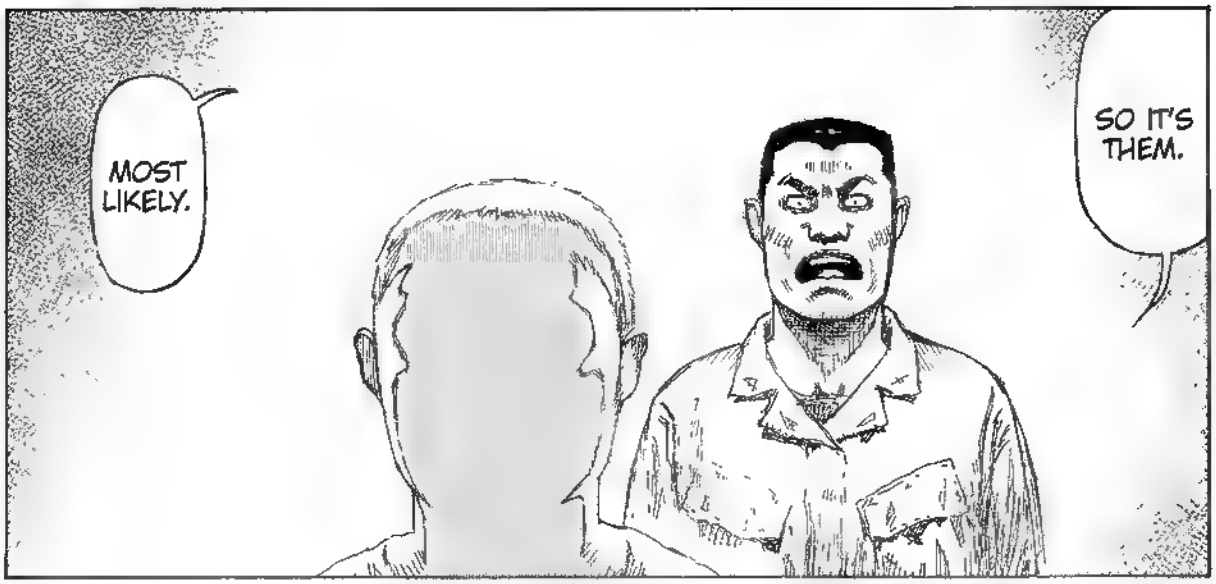

WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST NOW...

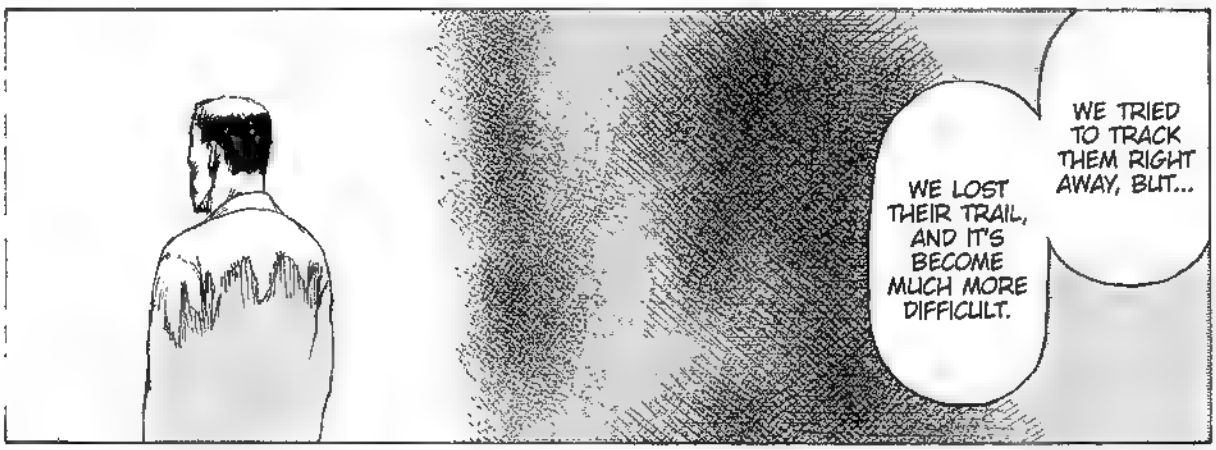
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
LET'S GO.



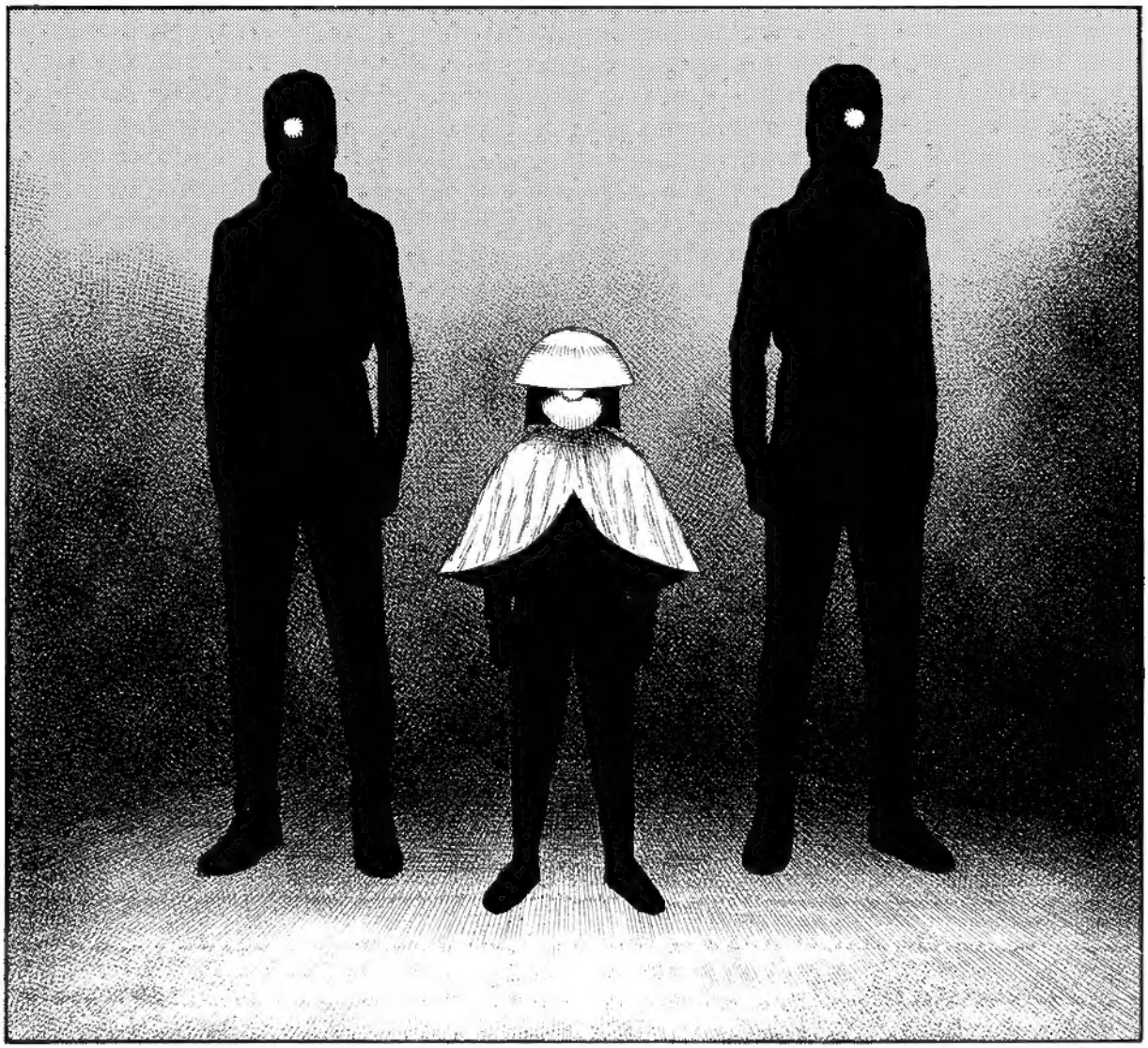


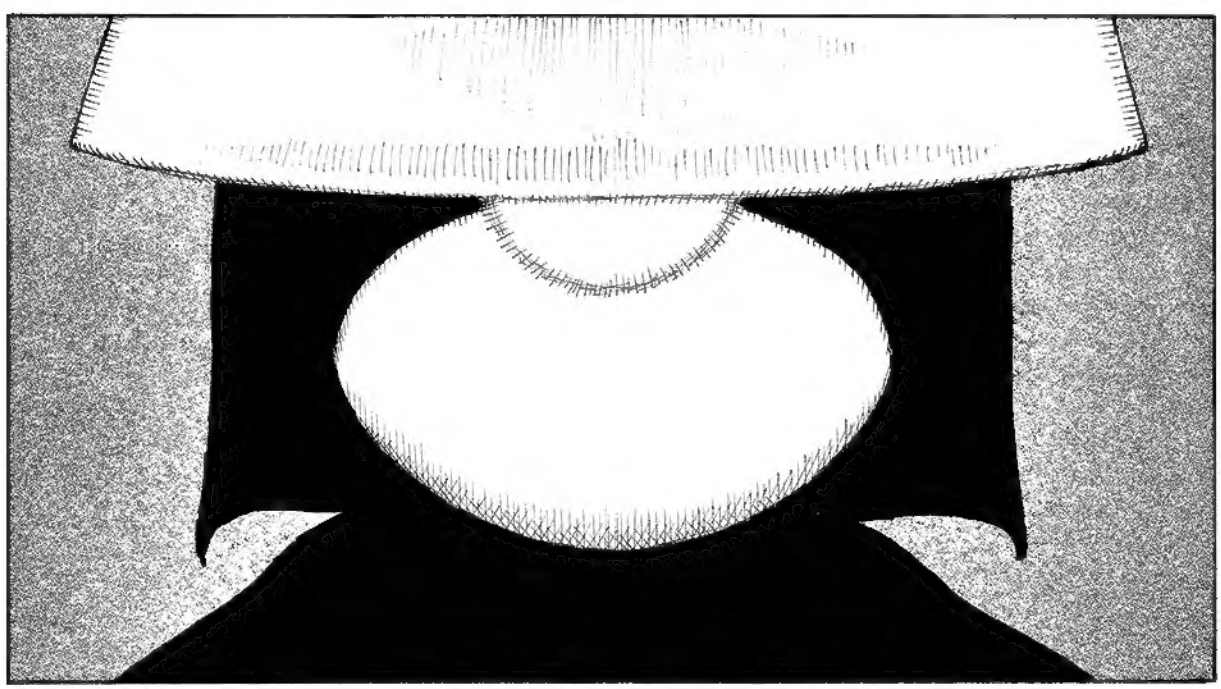
THIS WAS THE WEAK SIDE!
WE JUST HAVE TWO CASUALTIES IN BLOCK E PATROL.
THEY WERE BEATEN BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN COUNTER


MOST LIKELY.
SO IT'S THEM.


WE TRIED TO TRACK THEM RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
WE LOST THEIR TRAIL, AND IT'S BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

ISN'T THAT SO?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN CATCH THEM ANY-WAYS.
...HUH?
THERE'S NO NEED.
WE WILL SEND IN REINFORCE-MENTS ONCE WE ARE PREPARED.





⑱巻も結局、新しい武器は出ませんでした。
⑲巻こそ、なんとかしたいなあ……。

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